MILF may wait for next president for peace talks

Story on PAGE A2

Dumaguete nights continue to sizzle

DI PWEDE ANG MGA BASTOS NA GANYAN!

By Romy G. Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—The City Council is investigating a "bikini open" contest that reportedly degenerated

DUMAGUETE/ A18

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Oops, 'Precious' not envoy to Canada

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

"SINCEREST apologies for the error," The Presidential Close-in Photographers Office (PCPO) sent an erratum to newspaper offices yesterday for its photo showing President Macapagal-Arroyo administering an oath to Preciosa Soliven, wife of Star publisher Max Soliven.

OOPS/ A17

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Saturday, July 12, 2003 ★★ 86 pages / 10 sections / vol. 18 / no. 214 P15 website: www.inq7.net

Danding loses UCPB shares to gov't, farmers

Court says coco funds used to buy bank

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

ENDING 16 years of a protracted court battle, the Sandiganbayan anti-graft court yesterday ruled that business tycoon Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco had illegally acquired the United Coconut Planters Bank with coconut levy funds and forfeited his shareholdings in the bank in favor of the government.

The long-awaited decision was handed down after office hours so there was no immediate comment from either the government or Cojuangco, who appears to be contemplating running for President in next year's national elections.

According to an elated Haydee Yorac, chief of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, "This ruling is a vindication for the coconut farmers who have waited 30 years. This is a justification of our firm position since 2001, when we filed a motion to withdraw.""

DANDING/ A17

High court upholds immigrant vote if . . .

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE SUPREME Court has upheld the right of Filipino immigrants abroad to register as voters under the landmark Absentee Voting Law if they promise to come back to the Philippines.

But the high court struck down one provision as unconstitutional—that which gives a congressional oversight committee the right to change the law's implementing rules and regulations drafted by the Commission on Elections.

The SC also clarified that only Congress can proclaim the winners in the presidential and vice-presidential races.

Lawyer Romulo Macalintal had questioned the constitutionality of the provision allowing immigrants to register as voters if they execute an affidavit promising to return to the country within three years after registration.

He noted that the Constitution requires that a voter must be a resident of the Philippines for at least one year and that he should be in the place where he intends to vote "for at least six months immediately preceding an election."

He added that the Constitution also disallows "provisional registration or a promise by a voter to perform a condition to be qualified to vote in a political exercise."

But in its 45-page en banc decision, the high court said the Constitution also specifically mandates Congress to create a law that enables "qualified Filipinos

HIGH/ A18

'Peace talks off if MILF behind blast'

MOURNING the death of their mother Nieves Peralta in the Koronadal bombing, her family receives words of comfort and P20,000 from President Macapagal on Friday. MALACAÑANG PHOTO

KORONADAL CITY—The government will call off peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front if the rebels are found responsible for Thursday's bombing, the President said yesterday.

In a statement issued by Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo said: "This event will not deter us from preparations for the peace negotiations, unless the MILF is proven to be involved."

Asked if Ms Macapagal would set aside the peace talks if the MILF was involved in the bombing, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye told reporters: "That's correct."

The MILF has strongly denied any involvement in the bombing, which killed three people and wounded 25.

The long-stalled peace negotiations are due to resume later this month, with the help of Malaysia which has offered to broker the talks.

A stern-faced President, visiting the public market where the improvised bomb exploded, vowed to prosecute those responsible.

"Nothing in the peace process will deter us from punishing terrorists and bringing them to justice," she told a crowd gathered at the market.

Later, the President went to a nearby village for the wake of an 11-year-old girl who was among those killed.

Koronadal City Mayor Fernando Miguel told local radio station dxMS that he'd received a call from a man identifying himself as Abu Sulaiman, an alleged Abu

PEACE/ A17

GMA positive for RP business, says finance expert

By Elena R. Torrijos

GLORIA Macapagal-Arroyo would be good for Philippine business if she decides to run for President next year, the head of Asian operations of a large European financial group said yesterday.

"It looks to me there's going to be some gathering uncertainties about the next elections, who the runners are going to be, that kind of uncertainty. If Gloria decides to run that will help stabilize things," ING Bank N.V. chair and chief executive for Asia-Pacific region David Hudson said yesterday.

"Clearly Gloria is positive for business," he asserted.

ING Securities senior analyst for the Philippines Gilbert Lopez said President Macapagal Arroyo was seen by foreign investors as the "safest" choice among potential candidates given her administration's fiscal performance.

"They've seen what the government has done," Lopez said, citing the government's improved revenue collection that has brought down the budget deficit comfortably below targets.

In any case, ING country head for the Philippines Manuel Salak III said that even if the President did not run, the presidential candidates would want to continue the government policies seen to

GMA POSITIVE/ A4

Sleepless sweatshops face drug raps

By Juliet Javellana
and Gil Cabacungan Jr.

DRUG pushers.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday warned employers who use drugs to keep their workers awake that the government will treat them as severely as possible.

And surprise inspections will make sure employers behave.

"We will not tolerate sweatshops and we will act very strongly against firms employing or abetting the use of illegal drugs to keep their workers awake and alert to the prejudice of their health. We will treat such employers as drug pushers under the law," the President said in a statement. Under the law, the penalty for drug pushing is "life imprisonment to death" and a fine ranging

SLEEPLESS/ A16

Remembering Smokey Mountain the way it was

By Volt Contreras

An I-TEAM Report

EIGHT years ago today, they were promised deliverance from the urban hell that was Smokey Mountain, that vast, noxious dumpsite in Tondo considered a symbol of everything that had gone wrong in this country.

But three Presidents later, Smokey's almost-forgotten community of scavengers is wasting away in the "temporary" quarters where they have been housed since 1995.

Only a five-minute walk from the temporary shelters, the cluster of high-rise tenements that were meant to be their permanent homes remain unfinished.

Work at the site has been suspended since August 1998.

Michael Defensor, the presidential adviser for

REMEMBERING/ A4

ERIK ARAZAS

STILL stinking from heaps of garbage, Smokey Mountain is revisited—a symbol of everything that's wrong with the country.

You think we're stupid? Erap lawyer irks court

HOPE is a thing called "the masses" for ex-President Estrada and his lawyer Alan Paguia should justice elude them, they said. JOAN BONDOC

By Norman Bordadora

THE ANTICS of jailed ex-President Estrada's defense counsel may have finally gotten to the Sandiganbayan justices hearing the plunder charges against the fallen leader.

Justice Minita Chico-Nazario, presiding justice of the special division hearing the case, yesterday let out with a Filipino expletive after lawyer Alan Paguia suggested that the anti-graft court write into its decision that the Supreme Court justices had connived with then Vice President Macapagal-Arroyo to oust Estrada during the second Edsa people power uprising in 2001.

"*Ano kami, gago* (Do you think we're that stupid)?" Nazario burst out as Paguia argued his case during oral arguments on his motion asking the court to reconsider its earlier refusal to dismiss the plunder charges against Estrada.

In the earlier motion, which the court dismissed on July 2, Paguia argued that the Supreme Court decision removing Estrada from office was unconstitutional and that Estrada was still the country's leader.

He claimed that the Supreme Court justices who swore in Ms Macapagal as President on Jan. 20, 2001, had already sided with her because they had been at the Edsa II rally. He then asked the court to put Ms Macapagal and the SC justices on the witness stand.

The Sandiganbayan last week dismissed the earlier motion, explaining that it did not have the authority to overturn Supreme Court decisions. It has to rule officially on the second motion by July 28.

Knowing that the Sandiganbayan was not likely to grant his second motion, Paguia yesterday said he wanted the court's decision to recognize that the SC justices in going to the Edsa II rally had "divested themselves of neutrality in the case."

YOU/ A16

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/07/12/03

Second FRONTPAGE

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

MILF may wait for next president

By TJ Burgonio

FACING an impasse over the issue of the lifting of arrest warrants against its top leaders, the separatist Moro National Liberation Front yesterday said it would just wait for the successor government of the Macapagal administration to pursue the peace talks.

"If the government isn't interested in peace talks anymore, we'll just wait for the next administration. Anyway the elections are just a few months away," said rebel spokesperson Eid Kabalu.

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople accused the MILF of stalling the talks by refusing to ask the courts to quash the arrest warrants against its chief Salamat Hashim and other key leaders whom authorities accuse of involvement in a spate of bombings in Mindanao this year.

Kabalu said the MILF cannot agree to the government's demand as this would undermine the movement's reason for existence.

"The MILF is a revolutionary movement that does not recognize the Philippine Constitution, and hence, the courts. If we do that, we will be estopped from our stand," he said in a phone interview.

"It's a trap," he said.

By continuing to impose this, the government was virtually stalling the talks, he said.

"If they continue to disregard what has been agreed upon during the exploratory talks, it's fine with us," Kabalu said, adding the rebels would just wait for a new President to come on board.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said the government was open to lifting the warrants but the rebels should be the ones to petition the courts as the latter don't come under the authority of the Chief Executive.

Kabalu argued that there was a precedent for the government lifting the warrants, recalling that the justice department had done so in 2001 under ex-President Joseph Estrada. The warrants involved charges in connection with the bombings in General Santos City that year.

He said that action enabled peace negotiations to push through in March 2001.

"There's a precedent here, why can't they do that?" he said.

Malacañang meanwhile has appointed Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla, the newly elected president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, to the four-member panel of advisers to the government in the peace talks expected to resume soon in Malaysia.

Capalla, 69, told reporters in Davao City he received his appointment by fax from the government's chief negotiator Eduardo Ermita yesterday.

"I am accepting the designation. It will enhance my effectiveness as president of the CBCP because I can report to them first-hand information [on the peace talks]," said Capalla who takes over as CBCP head from Cotabato Archbishop Orlando Quevedo in December.

Capalla has been in the forefront of efforts to revive the stalled talks and was among those who actively campaigned for a stop to the military offensives that have stalled the talks in the past.

Capalla said his appointment will also mean a more active role for the CBCP and the bishops in the peace process. *With a report from Anthony S. Allada and Dennis Jay C. Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

NEWSBRIEFS

Friendly fire kills soldier in air raid

AERIAL bombing runs against Abu Sayyaf extremists accidentally killed one soldier and injured at least seven others, Air Force spokesperson Maj. Restituto Padilla said yesterday. He said an investigation showed a malfunction in the OV-10 plane's armament system was to blame for the incident Thursday.

"It was purely an accident. The aircraft aborted its delivery (of a bomb) to allow a second aircraft to deliver its load, but while it was ascending, the bomb fell," Padilla said. "Things like this happen even in Iraq, in Afghanistan."

He said all Air Force OV-10 planes have been grounded for inspection, but air operations using helicopters continue against Abu Sayyaf guerrillas on Cabungan island. Two air force planes on Thursday bombed suspected positions of a group headed by Isnilon Hapilon, said army First Infantry Division chief Maj. Gen. Trifonio Salazar. *AP*

Garcias of Cebu back GMA

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will get strong support in Cebu if she decides to run for president next year, even even if Senators John and Serge Osmeña oppose her bid, according to Winston Garcia, Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) president and general manager. He said in a statement the Garcia clan, one of the most influential political families in Cebu, is united in supporting Ms Macapagal should she decide to run.

"We are deeply indebted to the President that's why she has our loyalty," Garcia said. He said his father, incumbent Gov. Pablo Garcia, has declared his support for Ms Macapagal in 2004.

Former Cebu City mayor Alvin Garcia had also declared the clan's "unqualified support to whatever decision President Arroyo will make." The GSIS president also quoted former Cebu governor Lito Osmeña as clarifying that his reported support for presidential aspirant Raul Roco is "conditional and not final." Osmeña's support for Roco is hinged the premise that Ms Macapagal will not run, Garcia said. He added that if she decides run and her approval rating continues to rise, Osmeña will ask Roco to back out of the presidential race and support the President instead.

Benedictos for land reform

FOLLOWING years of sometimes violent conflict involving farmer beneficiaries, the Benedicto clan has given its all-out support for agrarian reform. Landowner Kitchie Benedicto, daughter of the late Ambassador Roberto, witnessed the installation recently of 318 farmer-beneficiaries in Hacienda Carmenchika and Carmengrande comprosing some 6, 420 hectares which the Benedicto clan formerly owned.

"I am supporting agrarian reform because of Secretary Pagdanganan," Ms Benedicto was quoted as saying in a press statement from the Department of Agrarian Reform. The installation ceremony was led by Agrarian Reform Secretary Roberto "Obet" Pagdanganan and was held in Barangay Don Salvador Benedicto, Pontevedra town, Negros Occidental.

Benedicto, who was out of the country to accompany her mother for medical treatment, returned just to personally attend the turnover of their former property to the qualified beneficiaries.

"I am supporting the Secretary (Pagdanganan) in the implementation of the agrarian reform program, and because of his sincerity, I have been convinced that it is all for the best," Kitchie said in a speech during the ceremony.

The ceremony marked the end of five years of dispute between the farmers and representative of the Benedictos, but the intervention of Pagdanganan led to the very peaceful and orderly turn-over of the "haciendas" to the farmers.

Assembly a certainty–JDV

SPEAKER Jose de Venecia is confident Congress would be convening itself into a constituent assembly by next month, following Sen. Edgardo Angara's assurance the mode of changing the Constitution would be taken up by the Senate when Congress reopens on July 28.

Speaking to the consultative assembly on Charter Change at Club Filipino yesterday, De Venecia said Angara, who chairs the Senate committee on constitutional amendments, revision of codes and laws, had enough votes to push for a constituent assembly. "Senator Angara is confident it will reach the floor and I believe him," the speaker said.

At present, he said, Angara has nine senators in favor of a constituent assembly. He said Angara was also counting on Senators Robert Barbers, Aquilino Pimentel Jr., John Osmeña and Robert Jaworski to swing the votes in favor of an assembly. *Cynthia D. Balana*

DA looks to GE seeds for security

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture is banking on hybrid seeds and other genetically enhanced (GE) materials to ensure food security and increased income for farmers during the remaining months of the Macapagal administration.

In a report submitted by Secretary Luis Lorenzo to Malacañang, the DA said it aims to improve productivity by providing farmers with ways to diversify production.

Farmers will also be provided with the know-how to improve efficiency in marketing and in facilitating credit flow to agriculture, the DA said. "The objective is to ensure a sound policy environment conducive to increased investments in agriculture and fisheries," it said. *Norman Bordadora*

JOE'S JOKE OR THREAT?

'I'll run if nobody else will'

By Carlito Pablo

"I'LL BE a candidate if no one else wants to [run]," Speaker Jose de Venecia said in jest yesterday, even as he urged President Macapagal-Arroyo and businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco to hurry up and settle the question of who will carry the administration coalition's colors in 2004.

De Venecia was gamely answering questions about his own political plans at the Balitaan sa Rembrandt media forum in Quezon City, and lest anyone misinterpret his joke, he quickly added: "I'm not interested in running for prime minister or president."

De Venecia lost the 1998 presidential race to Joseph Estrada but his running mate, Ms Macapagal, handily won the vice presidency.

Recalling his stab at the presidency, De Venecia said it was financially straining.

"We had little money then and that's why I don't want to run for president now," he said.

Besides, "there are many who [now] want to become president," he added.

In the meantime, De Venecia said he is content with trying to broker an agreement between Ms Macapagal and Cojuangco on who will run for president under the coalition's banner in 2004.

The President and De Venecia co-chair the Lakas-CMD, the dominant party in the ruling People Power Coalition, while Cojuangco is founder and chair of the Nationalist People's Coalition, a member of the alliance.

De Venecia suggested the President and Cojuangco meet to "clear the air, reduce too much speculation... so we can reduce the decibel of politics," before or immediately after Ms Macapagal delivers her State of the Nation Address on July 28.

De Venecia noted that the President was facing "tremendous pressure" to run.

But, "my personal observation is that she really doesn't want to be a candidate," he said.

At the same time, he pooh-poohed claims the Lakas-NPC alliance was headed for a split.

"I would rather go by the statement of Danding who told me in San Francisco that we will maintain the coalition," De Venecia said.

He saw Cojuangco in the US last month, during the latter's birthday.

"We agreed to enlarge and seal the Lakas-NPC partnership in the House," De Venecia said.

Some NPC leaders had said the party would get out of the PPC if Ms Macapagal decided to run for president next year.

As to who may be the coalition's senatorial candidates next year, De Venecia rattled off some names.

They included reelectionist Senators Loren Legarda, Robert Barbers and Robert Jaworski, and Cabinet members Manuel Roxas III, Angelo Reyes, Richard Gordon and Bayani Fernando.

De Venecia said actor Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. may also be an administration bet for senator.

SMC belies union claim on closure of warehouse

THE SAN Miguel Corp. is not closing its warehouses in Cubao, Quezon City; Caloocan City and Pureza in Sta. Mesa, Manila, SMC management said yesterday.

SMC was reacting to allegations made by the militant Kilusang Mayo Uno labor group that San Miguel chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco was "deceiving the public by masquerading as a good employer who was pro-worker."

The allegations were made in an INQUIRER story that came out yesterday. Cojuangco is currently "testing the waters" to see if he should make a run for the presidency next year.

KMU deputy secretary general William Merene had said the three warehouses were ordered closed by Cojuangco and this would throw 188 employees out of work.

Merene also detailed other "anti-worker" acts of Cojuangco, among them, the forced retirement of 80 workers at the SMC Polo Brewery, the retrenchment of 28 employees of the Metal Closure Lithography plant in Laguna, the lockout at the Campo Carne plant which displaced 170 regular employees and 150 contractual workers, and other alleged "crimes."

Merene had said "Danding's long list of crimes against SMC workers is proof that he is not fit to run for president."

Merene said SMC had moved out the equipment and inventory in the three Metro Manila warehouses and told the workers these would be closed by July 14.

In a statement to the media, SMC denied the allegations made by the KMU.

The movement of stocks and equipment was part of daily warehouse operations, it said.

Press Meralco, ERC on refund, SC urged

By Philip C. Tubeza and Ronnel W. Domingo

THE MILITANT group Anakpawis yesterday asked the Supreme Court to reconsider its dismissal of their petition to have the Manila Electric Co. refund "immediately" the P30 billion it had overcharged customers between 1994 and 1998.

The high court had dismissed the Anakpawis petition due to a technicality—the group had sent its petition to other parties through the mail without any explanation.

Anakpawis said it had mailed the copies of its petition to other interested parties due to distance. It admitted it had erred when it did not explain to the court why it had done it this way.

Anakpawis said the technicality should not deter the high court from hearing its petition and making a decision based on the merits of the case.

"The Rules of Court was conceived to set forth guidelines in the dispensation of justice but not to bind the hand that dispenses it, otherwise, courts will be mere slaves to or robots of technical rules," said Anakpawis counsel David Erro, quoting a court decision.

The ERC approved on May 12 the Meralco proposal to refund its customers in "phases." The firm has started giving out refunds to costumers who "consume [up to] 100 kWh per month."

Another consumer group said yesterday the ERC and the Commission on Audit should examine Meralco's books to see if its senior executives were indeed being paid exorbitant salaries.

Pete Ilagan, president of the National Association of Electricity Consumers for Reforms (Nasecore), said in an interview his group will file a petition with the ERC next week for an audit of Meralco.

"Meralco, as a public utility, must ensure that its cost of operations—including payroll—are kept at a minimum," Ilagan said. "After all, consumers are the ones shouldering these costs."

On Thursday, the People Opposed to Warrantless Electricity Rates (Power) had said Meralco's president and senior vice president were each receiving salaries and bonuses of P1.5 million per month, based on the firm's own statement.

Rise in premarital (same) sex shocks researchers

By Blanche S. Rivera

THAT many Filipino youths engage in premarital sex is not news. That a large number of them do it with members of the same sex is.

A study by the UP Population Institute (UPPI) showed that 11 percent (or 418,000) of the 3.8 million male and female adolescents who have premarital sex do it with a partner belonging to the same sex.

The results of the Young Adults Fertility Survey 2002 (YAFS) were so revealing that even the study's lead researcher admitted to being shocked.

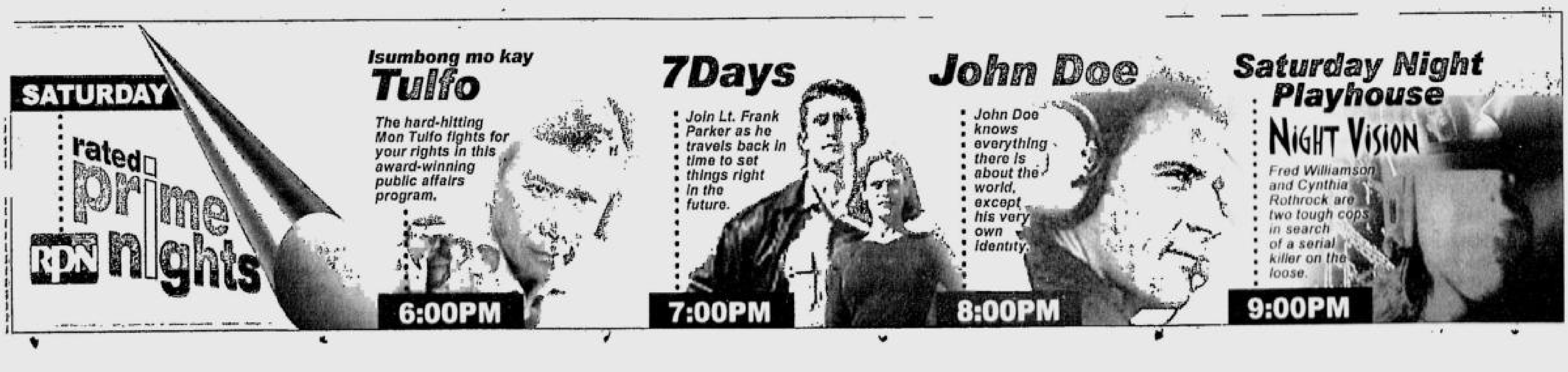
"We go out with them (homosexuals) and accept them, but really knowing that they go to bed together is kind of shocking for the kind of society we have. But this is happening," said Dr. Corazon Raymundo, YAFS project director and a UPPI professor.

Raymundo presented the study results during a World Population Day program at the Far Eastern University yesterday.

The UPPI surveyed 20,000 adolescents (aged 15-24) nationwide. There are 16.5 million Filipinos in this age bracket, representing one-fifth of the country's population.

The study showed that 23 percent (3.8 million) of adolescents engage in premarital sex. It also showed that adolescents usually do not have sex on their first date. And casual sex, whether heterosexual or homosexual, is practiced more by men than women.

The YAFS study also showed that boys, rather than girls, tended to engage in homosexual sex.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6:00PM
7Days
Join Lt. Frank Parker as he travels back in time to set things right in the future.
7:00PM
John Doe
John Doe knows everything there is about the world, except his very own identity.
8:00PM
Saturday Night Playhouse
NIGHT VISION
Fred Williamson and Cynthia Rothrock are two tough cops in search of a serial killer on the loose.
9:00PM

MANHATTAN PROJECT

NY wants to deduct RP back taxes from US aid

WASHINGTON—The US Senate weighed in on the tax battle between New York City and foreign consulates over millions of dollars allegedly owed in back property taxes, adding a measure to a pending bill that would deduct the money from outgoing foreign aid packages.

The measure, pushed by Sen. Charles Schumer, of New York, is designed to force foreign consulates, including that of the Philippines, to settle their disputed debts with the city.

"I want the United Nations to stay, but I certainly don't want some of these consulates to think they can thumb their nose," Schumer said Thursday.

The city filed suit earlier this year against four foreign governments, claiming they owed more than $100 million in overdue property taxes. Schumer said the city is owed more than $200 million by a host of foreign governments.

The city has feuded with UN diplomats in the past over unpaid parking tickets, though that issue was eventually settled after years of disputes.

The current fight centers around buildings that the city claims are rented out to private entities, which qualifies them to pay property taxes on what would otherwise be tax-exempt consulate property.

Schumer's measure would deduct 110 percent of the amount owed from foreign aid packages headed to the countries in question, including Turkey, the Philippines, India and Mongolia.

The Senate agreed on a voice vote Thursday to attach the measure to the pending State Department authorization bill.

Papers filed in April in Manhattan's state Supreme Court showed that some of the taxes, all on Manhattan properties, have been due for almost 30 years. The Philippine consulate, for example, owes $404,131.61 from 1974 alone, the city's court papers said.

The Philippine government, citing New York state statute and a March 1947 convention with the United States, said it "is not obligated to pay New York City real property taxes with respect to its" Fifth Avenue property.

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople said in April that the city's lawsuit was based on a misapplication of laws. *AP*

Ninoy death anniversary a holiday

THE 20th anniversary of the assassination of Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. will be a special nonworking holiday throughout the country.

President Macapagal-Arroyo issued Proclamation 420 designating Aug. 22, a Friday, as a special non-working day, for the country to afford the people a long weekend. But the commemoration of Aquino's martyrdom will still be held on the actual day, Aug. 21, a Thursday. *Juliet Labog-Javellana*

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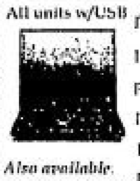

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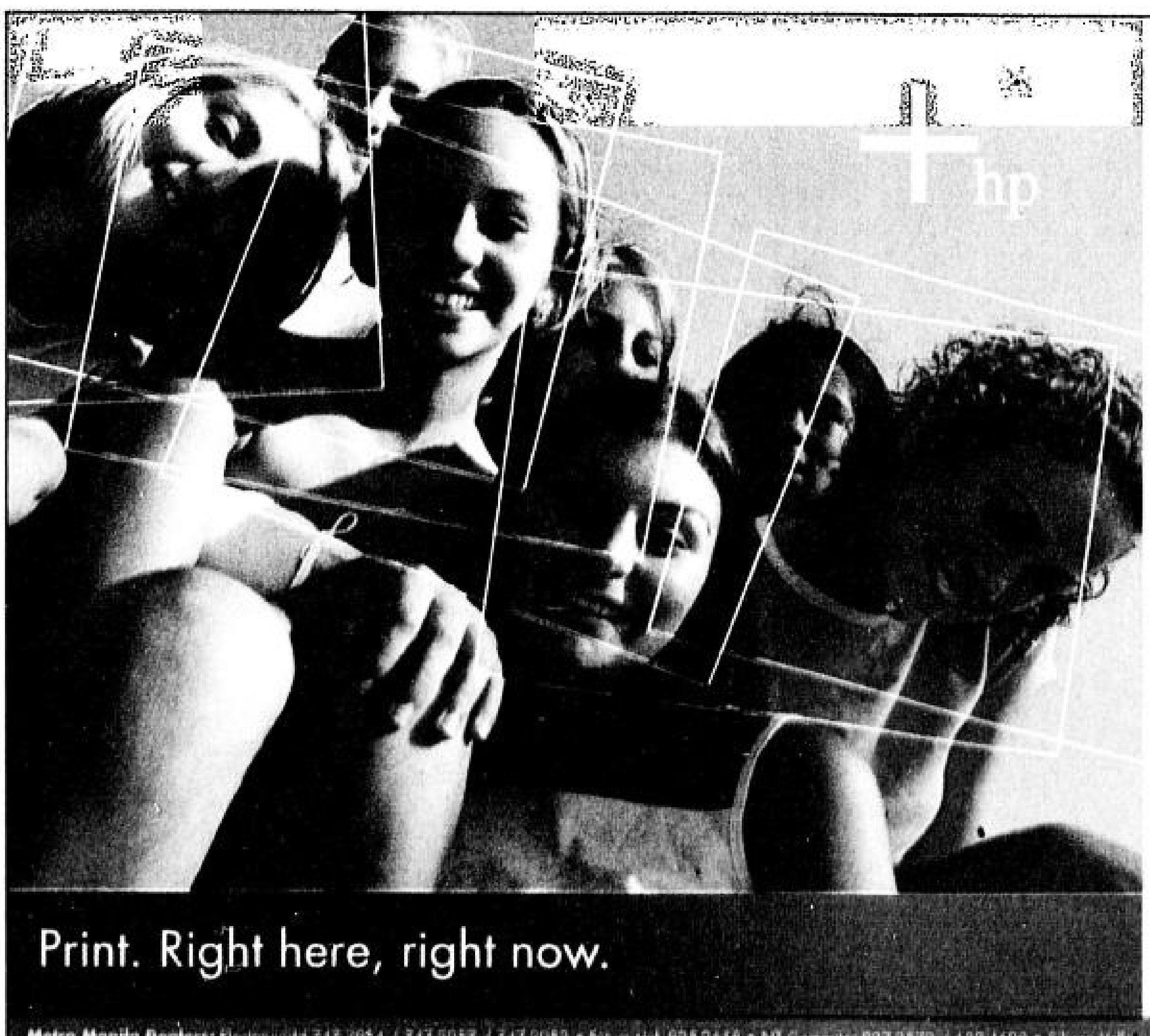

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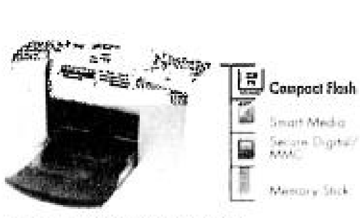

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Remembering ...

From page A1

housing, claimed the delay was because of some "impediments" caused by the changes made to the original agreement between the government and the contractor, R-II Builders.

In the meantime, the population in the temporary shelters has doubled and a new generation of scavengers has emerged, the latter's main quarry being the garbage "transfer station" opened in 1998 by the Manila city government at a compound less than 20 meters away from the temporary shelters.

Nenita Santiago, a community leader, recalls that when the National Housing Authority started awarding rights to the high-rises in 1995, the future looked bright for the 2,756 families that had been chosen.

But now there are "about 4,000 families" crammed into the temporary shelters, she said.

Santiago said this figure was based on a count made during one of the relief operations conducted last year by the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

The 31 temporary dwellings, made of concrete, plywood and galvanized iron roofing, were meant to be occupied for only "three years," she said.

The first 88 "Smokey" families were relocated here on July 12, 1995, about a year after the Ramos administration closed the dump, Santiago said.

Today, the once orderly row of structures is crumbling, leaking, flood-prone and plain ugly, not unlike a squatter colony because of various additions made to the units to accommodate extended families.

The residents-in-waiting endure daily exposure to unsanitary conditions and rising crime and drug abuse in the neighborhood, she said.

GMA promises

"President Macapagal-Arroyo has already visited us three times, each time with a promise to have us finally moved to permanent housing in just a few months," said Santiago, who is the secretary of the Alyansa ng Mamamayan sa Smokey Mountain, or Alma-SM.

But all they have received so far are relief assistance during calamities, some scholarship grants for the youth, and visits by the so-called GMA rolling stores, she said.

Defensor explained that work on the "high-rise" project had to be suspended because the March 1998 Supplemental Agreement between the NHA and R-II has yet to be approved.

The agreement covers "additional work and change orders" to be undertaken by R-II, including the disposal of the heaps of garbage that have accumulated at Smokey.

"President Ramos endorsed the supplemental agreement to the incoming Estrada administration. Work was suspended on Aug. 1, 1998 to evaluate the agreement, of which an amended version was signed in November 2001 (during the Macapagal administration)," Defensor said.

New bidding

When the NHA sought the President's approval for the amended version, "it was turned down and a Cabinet directive was issued for us to call for a bidding of all the works required to complete the project," Defensor said.

R-II threatened suit on the ground that the new bidding violated the contract it had with the government, said Defensor who chairs the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council.

He said the NHA board has agreed to R-II's position that the government pay the firm P250 million for the work it has already completed and just bid out the rest of the project.

"The board is now in the process of validating these completed works," Defensor explained.

Of the 30 high-rise structures that will serve as permanent homes for the Smokey families, 21 are already standing, Santiago said. Each five-story building has 120 units.

The whole complex still lacks a sewage system, paved roads and water and power lines, she said.

With the national elections less than a year away, new concerns have surfaced.

"We are now worried that the money for completing the project might be spent for something else," said Santiago.

"And if this drags on until a new administration comes along, we won't be surprised if the project undergoes yet another review," she said.

Gloria to hold summit with PPC wannabes

By Cynthia Balana

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is expected to conduct a separate summit with potential presidential candidates in the People's Power Coalition to discuss the possibility of endorsing one standard-bearer for the administration in the 2004 presidential election, Speaker Jose de Venecia said yesterday.

In a talk with the INQUIRER during the meeting of the Consultative Assembly on Charter Change with barangay officials, De Venecia said there was a need to put an end to all the speculations that the President will be running in 2004.

He said the summit between the President and businessman Eduardo Cojuangco of the Nationalist People's Coalition in the next few weeks would be the first in a series of summit in the PPC's search for a presidential candidate.

According to the Speaker, the meeting with Cojuangco was given top priority because Cojuangco and Ms Macapagal belonged to the two biggest political parties in the coalition.

At the same time, De Venecia rejected the observation that the President has been sending mixed signals on whether she would run or not.

He said the President's decision to work harder until the end of her term in June next year was the best signal that she was indeed not running.

However, De Venecia admitted that Lakas leaders have been exerting pressure on the President to seek the presidency in the same manner that NPC leaders were also putting pressure on Cojuangco to do the same.

"That's the reason why we all want to resolve all these in the summit because there are too many speculations," he said. "It's very important to clear the air. Both of them have not made up their minds to run so I'm suggesting a four-eyes meeting between the two."

Aside from Cojuangco, De Venecia has also scheduled a summit with other potential PPC standard-bearers, namely Senators Loren Legarda, Juan Flavier, Ramon Magsaysay and Robert Barbers.

De Venecia said that another summit with the President may also be set with former Education Secretary Raul Roco, whom he described as a good alternative. Roco is also seeking the presidency.

To be consulted in the coalition were Promdi of ex-Gov. Lito Osmeña, Reporma of presidential adviser Renato de Villa, the Liberal Party headed by Rep. Butch Abad, and Roco's Aksyon Demokratiko.

GMA positive for RP business—finance expert

From page A1

appeal very much to foreign businessmen, given the economy's dependence on foreign money.

"Whatever their platforms are, they will be very conscious in terms of trying to continue whatever policies they think are clicking (with investors)," Salak said.

Officials of the Dutch bank declined to comment on which other political personalities foreign investors may find more or less acceptable as President. It was still too early to tell, they said.

Lopez, however, noted that the Phisix, the main index of the Philippine stock market, could easily exceed 1400 points if investors felt comfortable with the emerging front-runner.

Most bullish

ING is one of the most bullish international investment banks on the Philippines.

It is currently recommending all its clients and investors to increase their exposure in both Philippine equities and bonds.

ING has raised its 2003 forecast of the Philippines' gross domestic product to 4.1 percent from 3.7 percent.

Hudson said the two key concerns of foreign investors regarding the Philippines was how the government managed its deficit to cope with servicing borrowings and the peace and order situation.

Business, Lopez said, would look for a combination of continuity and stability.

"If a president is not able to provide that then we see risks ... but for now this is still not a major factor in our opinion," he said.

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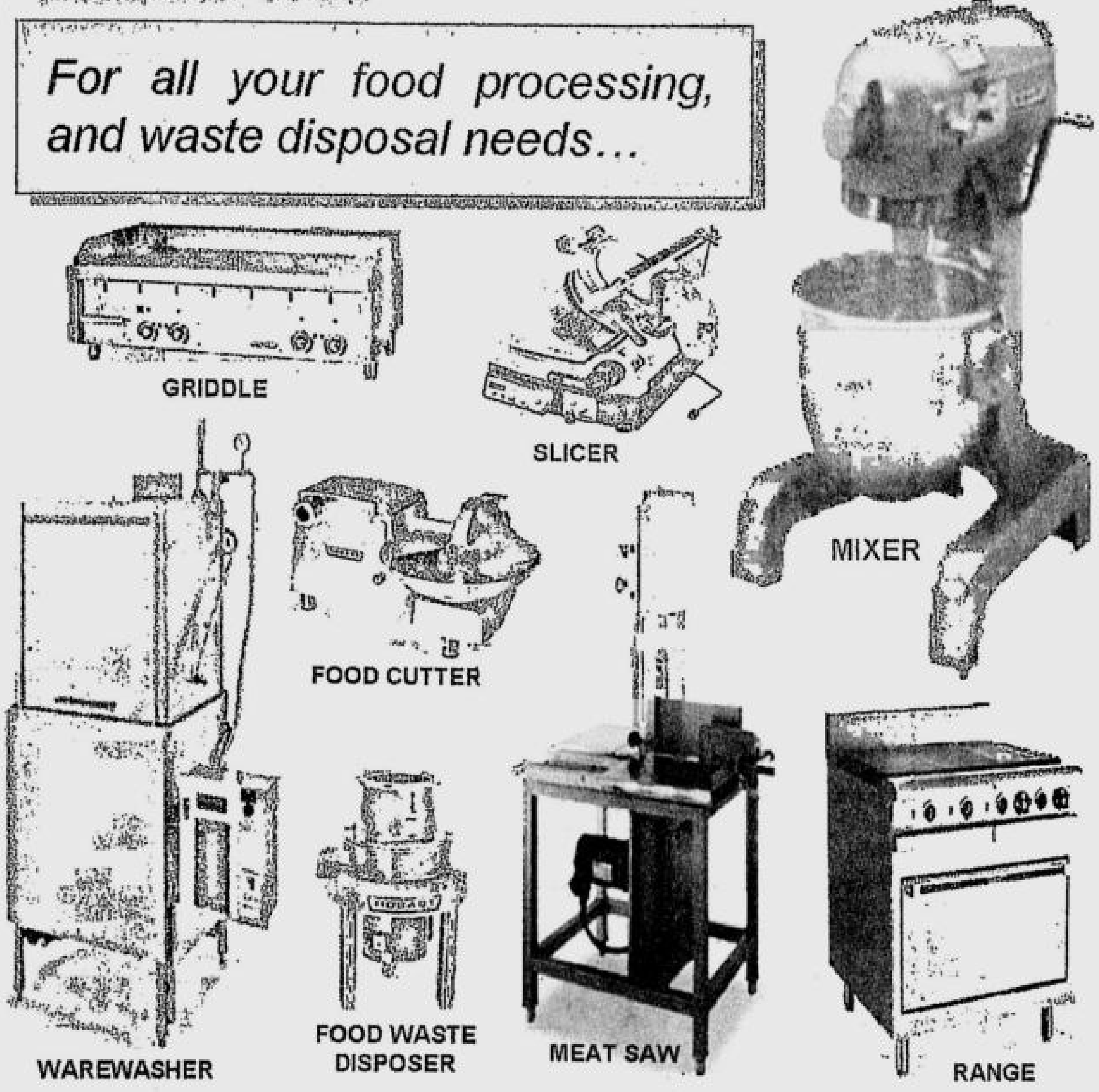

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Solons to get pork, finally

CONGRESSMEN will finally have the first installment of their delayed pork barrel funds for 2003 by the last week of July.

Speaker Jose de Venecia made this announcement amid talk that some House members were threatening to boycott the opening of session of Congress on July 28, the day President Macapagal-Arroyo delivers her State of the Nation Address.

"By the last week of July, we would release the public works entitlement of barangays, towns and provinces," De Venecia said at the Balitaan sa Rembrandt news forum in Quezon City.

Each congressman is entitled to a total of P65 million in pork barrel per year, consisting of P50 million in appropriations at the Department of Public Works and Highways and P15 million as Priority Assistance Development Fund.

Based on past practice, the first of three installments of the pork barrel funds is released in April.

Congressmen had been griping that as late as this month, they had not received a single centavo from the pork barrel. *Carlito Pablo*

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OPINION

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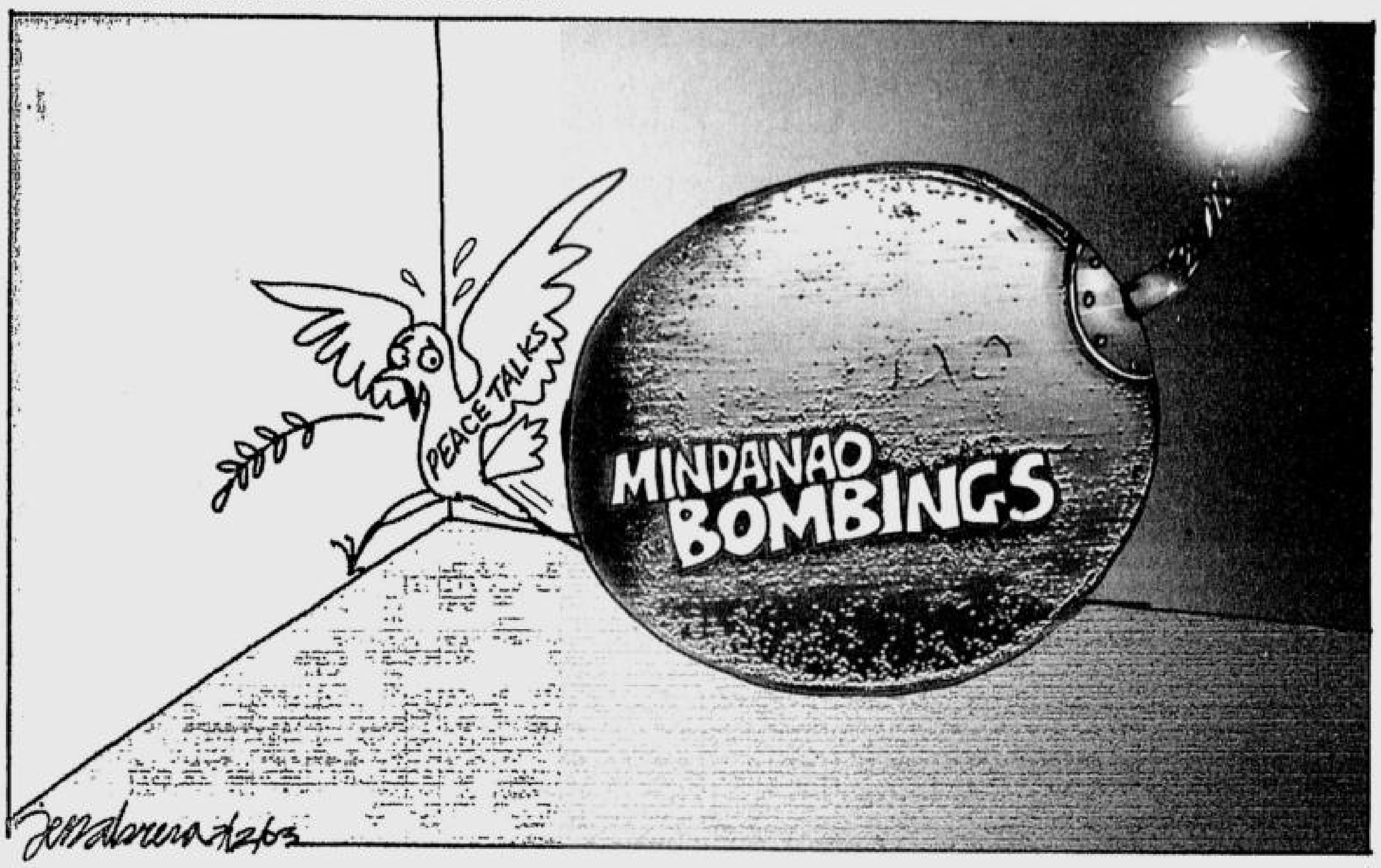

EDITORIALS

Grief

WE mourn the death of the Iranian twins along with the world. By their fight to realize their dream, they have brought more understanding about the meaning of life, hope and freedom than all the wars that have been waged in those names. Death has not tarnished their victory.

The twins, conjoined in the head at birth, had been quite literally inseparable. They were born to a poor family in Iran but had been adopted by a doctor who tried as best he could, and as the condition of the twins and Allah would allow, to give them a normal life. The two went to school just like other kids. They graduated just like other youths. And they aspired to certain professions, just like other young adults. One wanted to be a lawyer and the other a journalist. But there was a problem. They could not do what they wanted to do independently of the other.

The keenness of their desire and the depth of their frustration drove them to seek a solution to their plight. They sought out doctors who could help them, and for a brief moment some years ago thought they had found it in Germany. Alas, the doctors told them they were inseparable in quite a fundamental way. They shared a common vein in the brain, where blood flowed to their heart. No one could cut through it without killing one of them or both.

The twins found yet another hope in Singapore when an international team of doctors proclaimed that they could produce a similar vein from one of the twin's thigh to take the place of the shared vein for one of them. The operation was risky, the doctors made no bones about that, but the twins declared themselves ready to face it.

After a marathon 50-hour operation, the doctors lost them both.

Their death diminishes all of us, and we can understand the bitterness many feel alongside their grief. The operation will doubtless remain a controversial one, the ethics debate raging for a long time to come. From where we stand, however, we find the operation justifiable.

Hope

THAT the doctors should have taken more time to study the matter before plunging ahead into it is easy to say after the fact. Hindsight is always a guarantee of prescience. Easy to say something was impossible if it fails, not so easy if it succeeds. Every pioneering effort will always be risky. If Christian Barnard had not performed the seemingly impossible first heart transplant many years ago, it would have remained impossible to this day. There is never any unprecedented procedure that can give ironclad assurance. What is reckless when it fails is daring when it succeeds. What is impetuousness when it fails is visionary when it succeeds. Choice is precisely the point. The twins understood the risks. They accepted it.

That brings us to the second objection. One doctor says he would have thought the risks worth taking if the twins had at that point been threatened with death or suffering. They were not. They were perfectly fine. The operation should not have taken place at all.

But at the very least that proposes that the only ethical premise for risking a dangerous operation is when someone is threatened by death, not when someone is promised a better life. A good case can easily be made for the latter as well.

Equally, it overlooks the concept of death and suffering. Those are not absolute concepts. Certainly, they may not be defined in purely physical terms. The twins might not have been in physical torment, but it does not take a writer's imagination to see how they would have been psychologically so. Again, it is a matter of perception and choice. The twins saw a possibility to have a better life, or one freed from the shackles of their current one, and took the risk. Other people have done it on quite another front, and they have been called patriots and freedom fighters.

And finally, there's the view that the twins should not have been allowed to make the decision themselves. The operation, from an objective point, was risky. The doctors themselves should not have allowed it. That is the position of the twins' adoptive father, who is himself a doctor and who is beside himself with grief.

That is where ethics reaches its core. Doubtless, that will be the most controversial element of all. Who has the final say in what happens, the patient or the doctor? Our sympathies have always lain with the patient, to the extent that he or she remains in full possession of faculties and fully understands the situation. If people cannot be free to choose the way they live, or die, can life be worth living at all?

The President and the Pope

Separate Opinion

Isagani A. Cruz

SOMETIME ago, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was reported as endorsing Pope John Paul II's reaffirmation of the celibacy policy of the Catholic Church. I do not know if she made this statement in her capacity as President of the Philippines or as an ordinary Catholic. In either case, that public endorsement was, in my opinion, inappropriate.

As President, she should have refrained from interfering with the decisions of the Vatican on an issue that is rocking the Catholic world. The State that she represents as its highest official should not enmesh itself in religious intramurals which the Holy See alone has the right to decide. The government should assume a position of perfect neutrality when it comes to religious dogma; secular officials should not meddle in sectarian debates.

Only when religious practice comes in conflict with the civil law may the State assert its police power to sustain its authority over the Church. Canon law must of course yield to the dictates of the State, as where a canonical annulment of marriage cannot dissolve the civil relationship of the spouses. The Biblical injunction that "thou shalt not kill" is no bar to the imposition of the death penalty as prescribed by law.

According to Justice Frankfurter of the US Supreme Court, "The constitutional provision on religious freedom terminated disabilities; it did not create new privileges. It gave religious liberty, not civil immunity. Its essence is freedom from conformity to religious dogma, not freedom from conformity to law because of religious dogma."

But this does not mean that every inconsistency between government authority and religious freedom must always be resolved in favor of the civil law. In the landmark case of Ebralinag v. Division Supt. of Schools, 219 SCRA 256, the Supreme Court upheld the refusal of the schoolchildren belonging to the sect known as Jehovah's Witnesses to salute the Philippine flag. They regarded it as an image to which the Bible, as they understood it, prevented them from rendering obeisance.

In the case of Engel v. Vitale, 370 US 421, the US Supreme Court outlawed a prayer composed by public school authorities for voluntary recitation by the students before the start of the school day. Those who chose not to join were even allowed to step out of the room while the prayer was being recited. The decision held that the prayer was favorable to those who had the right to worship but not to those who had the equal right not to worship.

To be sure, the wall of separation between the Church and the State is often difficult to recognize. Conflicts between liberty and authority are what make constitutional law so fascinating. But in the case of President Macapagal's gratuitous public support for the Catholic policy of priestly celibacy, there is no doubt that she had trod on forbidden territory. The government simply had no business weighing in on a matter exclusively internal to the Catholics.

So if the members of the El Shaddai group should differ on the issue of tithing, may President Macapagal support Mike Velarde and say this is a religious duty every one of his followers should discharge? And where the Iglesia ni Cristo argues that it should not give the Virgin Mary equal divine status with Jesus Christ, as the Catholics do, may Ms Macapagal, who is not even affiliated with the INC, say that Felix Manalo is correct?

President Macapagal may say that when she publicly agreed with Pope John Paul II, she was acting in her capacity as a private citizen and Catholic devotee. The trouble with this apologia is that as President of the Philippines, she cannot dissociate her private persona from her public status. No president can. The nation listens to her as Head of State and not as an ordinary parishioner, whatever creed she follows. When she speaks on any public issue, including religion, she speaks not as a private citizen or ordinary worshiper but as the President of the Philippines. She is not allowed to participate in any religious issue because, in doing so, she involves not only herself as a private person but the State she represents.

The separation of Church and State calls upon the parties "to render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." It prohibits "active involvement of the sovereign in any religious activity" and "excessive government entanglement with religion." The mere attendance of public officials, including the President and members of Congress, in religious assemblages is offensive to the doctrine, more so because their purpose is not spiritual but plainly political. President Macapagal's support of the Pope in Rome is worse because she has enlisted the entire Filipino nation in the ranks of the Vatican.

Those who do not believe in God, as is their right under the Constitution, and those who are not Catholics and belong to other religions, as is also their constitutional right, have reason to protest President Macapagal's act. In involving them without authority in a purely religious issue, she has breached the separation of Church and State mandated by the Constitution.

Trojan horse

Get Real

Solita Collas-Monsod

FOR sneakiness, it is world class, ranking right up there with the Trojan horse. "It" in this case refers to the so-called Farmland as Collateral Bill (SB 2553 in the Senate and HB 5511 in the House).

Like its Greek predecessor, it looks like a great gift to farmers—who can quarrel with farmer empowerment, after all? It looks like a gift because it is supposed to correct a flaw in the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL): a provision that prohibits Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs) from selling or otherwise conveying their land until 10 years after they receive it.

While the intention of such a provision seems to be good—the 10 years reportedly would give the ARBs sufficient time to make their farms viable, or some such—the effect is devastating to the farmer: If the land cannot be conveyed, it certainly cannot be used as collateral, which in turn means that this asset cannot be used—not legally, anyway—to access credit for whatever purpose the farmer has in mind. In effect, the choices available to the farmer remains as restricted as before, if not more so.

Credit from previous landlords being no longer an automatic expectation, and credit from banking institutions mandated by the Agri-Agra Law long since diverted (banks were allowed to substitute lending to farmers with lending to the government), the ARB desperate for financing has no choice but to break the law, and either sell her land sub-rosa or "pawn" it.

If she sold her land sub-rosa, the price she received, according to a PIDS study (chief author Cristina David), was greatly discounted, "at least by the amount necessary to pay off officials for 'legalizing' the sale transaction." On the other hand, if she "pawned" it, she faced "not only higher implicit interest rates, but loss of livelihood...In a pawning arrangement, the cultivation right is typically surrendered to the pawnee (though some rent, 6-8 cavans per hectare, is paid to pawner). And in either case, because she was operating outside the law, she had no legal protection whatsoever and was prey to officials and creditors who could rob her blind. As a result, instead of benefiting from land reform, unfortunate ARBs caught in this vise were well and truly screwed.

And so, at first blush, the Farmland As Collateral Bill (FAC) would seem like a knight in shining armor come to rescue the damsel in distress, a gift from the Greeks to the Trojans, because it calls for lifting the 10-year prohibition on conveyance that ties the farmer's hands.

Unfortunately, the ultimate effect is not to free the farmer's hands, but to tie them even tighter, and then tie her feet as well for good measure. How so?

First, because FAC, while removing the 10-year prohibition, ignores the reality of the illegal or extra legal transactions (the selling and pawning) that have taken place at very disadvantageous terms to the farmers. Which means that these ARBs can kiss their land goodbye the moment the FAC becomes law.

Second, because FAC does not take into account that even before CARL, banks were loathe to lend to small farmers, so lifting the 10-year prohibition will not result in a meaningful flow of credit from them. The FAC does not seem to realize that unless the Agri-Agra Law is strictly implemented, expecting banks to supply loan funds to farmers will be like whistling in the wind. Part of the empowerment of farmers lies in forcing banks to be socially responsible.

Third, because FAC, committing another sin of omission, fails to take into account that the reason farmers are such easy targets for human predators is that the government so far has failed to live up to its promises of providing support services to farmers (e.g. capability building, infrastructure support) that was supposedly part of the deal with CARL.

But the worst sin of FAC is one of commission, and the sneakiest of all. Because it in effect will not only stop the agrarian reform program even before it has been completed, but may totally reverse any asset redistribution which has already taken place. All through the seemingly innocuous provision which calls for the lifting of the five-hectare retention limit set in CARL.

Why does FAC want to lift that limit? The reasoning is that unless it does, banks won't accept ARB land as collateral because if they foreclose even on a few ARBs, they will exceed the retention limit.

But the logical action in this case, one would think, would be to make an exception (with the proper conditions and safeguards) for banks in the course of their landbanking activities. Not enough, claim the FAC advocates: banks would still have too hard a time disposing of what they had because purchasers will still have to contend with the retention limits.

So, in the guise of making it easier for the banks (who didn't want to lend even before CARL, mind you), FAC would allow land reconsolidation. Think of the temptation to former landowners to get back their original landholdings by foreclosing on loans to ARBs at the drop of a hat, because now they are allowed to. Think of the temptation to banks to ignore those who are interested in buying small parcels of land in favor of huge, one-time transactions.

It is ironic. A few years ago, the landowner bloc in Congress wanted to repeal CARL because they said it was not working. They failed. Now, in the guise of empowering farmers, they might succeed.

FAC!

The 'Bigger C'

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

WITH WORLD Theater Month some weeks back, friends and admirers of Cecile Guidote Alvarez gathered at the St. Paul's College James B. Reuter Theater in Quezon City last July 1 to pay homage to her 40 years in theater and the arts, as well as her deep involvement in human and environmental rights. Listening to all the tribute paid by her former students and associates, those of us who only came to know her upon her and her husband Sonny's return after 13 years of political exile in the US realized how little we knew about her past. As the chair of the Visiting Forces Agreement Commission, Amado Valdez, put it, "I never realized how incredible this lady is and the influence she had on so many artists."

* * *

At a young age, Cecile conceived of theater as a force for national identity and development, and set up the Philippine Educational Theater Association (Peta) in the ruins of Fort Santiago, now Dulaang Raha Sulayman, developing its blueprint as a student thesis in graduate school abroad. In recognition of her untiring efforts to build a national theater, she was selected the youngest recipient of the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Public Service in the Arts. But what came shining through over three hours of the song-play-speech-dance extravaganza was the incredible number of artists who fell under her influence and became stellar attractions in the artistic firmament in their own right—names like Nick Lizaso, C.B. Garucho, Tommy Abuel, Joy Soler de Castro (who came all the way from Singapore), Isagani Cruz, Soxy Topacio, Gardy Labad, Jerry Dadap and many more.

National Artists Nick Joaquin, Leonor Orosa Goquinco and Alejandro Roces graced the occasion, and Repertory Philippines' high priestess Zeneida Amador sent a message read by Joy Virata, calling Cecile "a national treasure even if you did not make it as National Artist." Her surrogate father, Magsaysay Awardee Fr. James B. Reuter, who introduced her to theater, brought along the aging alumni of the Ateneo Glee Club to sing their immortal Jerome Kern classics.

The extravaganza was a celebration of Cecile's singular contribution to Philippine theater as much as a toast to her indomitable spirit in fighting the Big C. Poet-columnist Alfredo Yuson couldn't have said it better when he wrote that in her struggle against the Big C, Cecile is proving she's "the Bigger C."

***Mabuhay ka,* Cecile.**

* * *

Today is the first death anniversary of former Ambassador, Executive Secretary and Defense Undersecretary Alejandro Melchor Jr. His family, friends and former associates observe it with a 9:30 a.m. Mass at the Carmelite Convent in Quezon City, to be officiated by Fr. Vicente Cajilig, O.P., and a 4 p.m. Mass at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Fort Bonifacio, Makati City, celebrated by Fr. Napoleon Jinon, OSJ. Soldier, statesman, diplomat, scholar, technocrat and Marian devotee, Alex Melchor, a graduate of the US Naval Academy class '52, was first and foremost a Filipino patriot and nationalist and a dedicated public servant who rendered more than 50 years of service to country under nine presidents. There was hardly any aspect of national life that didn't feel his influence at one time or another.

* * *

To commemorate Melchor's outstanding service to country and perpetuate his legacy and vision for development and nation building, his family and colleagues recently launched the Alejandro Melchor Jr. Foundation, with his widow Rosario as chair emeritus, former Finance Secretary Roberto de Ocampo as chair and Ciriaco A. Reyes as president. Next month, it will launch the Center for Transformational Nation-Building at the Asian Institute of Management, which will seek to translate his legacy and vision into concrete programs and actions for development. One of its aims is to "gather, unify, mold and organize men and women with character and commitment, into a new breed of leaders to build the nation—a Priesthood of Development." To mark the launch, "An Overview of the State of Philippine Competitiveness 2003" will be presented. In November, the foundation will sponsor a series of roundtable discussions on an agenda for national transformation. Nothing would please Melchor more than this approach which combines the intellectual, economic and spiritual facets.

* * *

Yesterday Army 1st Lt. Peter James Angeles, PMA class 2000, was buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Fort Bonifacio. He was killed in action against the NPA in Compostela Valley. Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, the PMA superintendent, related to me the tragic family circumstances of this young officer which highlights "the sacrifices of our men in uniform" (one might add, those of the women behind them too).

Angeles was the only child of Josie Angeles, herself the widow of Sergeant Angeles who died in the infamous massacre of Army officers and men, led by First Division Commander Brig. Gen. Teodulfo Bautista, in Patikul, Sulu in 1977, at the hands of MNLF forces who turned treacherous during a peace negotiation. The young lieutenant left behind a three-month pregnant wife, Claudine Marie, whose own father, Maj. Amador Peleo, PMA '73, died in a PAF plane crash in Baguio City in 1988.

* * *

During the wake at the PMA, there was a brief strain as his wife wanted to have his remains cremated in accordance with a pact they had made when he was alive, while his mother wanted to have him buried in their native Pangasinan, so that she could lay flowers on the grave of her only child regularly. Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, Adan and PMA classmates of Angeles interceded, and succeeded in convincing the two women to agree to a hero's burial for him at the Libingan 'ng mga Bayani, inasmuch as "he now belongs to the nation." Such, indeed, are the sacrifices of our personnel in uniform.

A 'crying shame'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

EVER since the Pap smear test for cervical cancer was introduced some 50 years ago and governments adopted massive screening programs that made this simple test routine and accessible to women of reproductive age, the number of women dying of cervical cancer has gone down drastically around the world.

But, as Dr. Rebecca Singson, an obstetrician-gynecologist who works out of Makati Medical Center and the Asian Hospital, points out, the test hasn't been as effective as expected or helped as many women. Women continue to die of cervical cancer. This is especially true here in the Philippines where cervical cancer remains the second most deadly and common cancer among women. This is mainly because there is as yet no massive screening program in place in the country. The majority of Filipino women still are not aware that they need to undergo a Pap smear at least once a year and starting from the time they become sexually active. And even though the test is an inexpensive and simple procedure, with government health centers charging as low as P50 per test, it remains beyond the reach of poor women and youth. Yet another reason, I think, for a more comprehensive reproductive health program that addresses the health needs of women, men and young people.

Another reason for the still-high number of cervical cancer deaths is the test itself. The conventional Pap smear involves swabbing a woman's cervix (while she's lying on an examination table with her feet up in stirrups) to collect cells which are then smeared on a glass slide and examined under a microscope. The problem, says Dr. Singson, is that in many cases "60 percent of the cells remain in the instrument" and chances are the test may miss most of the abnormal cells.

"It also depends on who does the test," points out Dr. Singson, "who collects the specimen and who examines the cells and draws the conclusions." A single Pap smear misses up to 50 percent of cervical cancer precursor lesions, says Dr. Singson.

* * *

RECENTLY, a more accurate test for cervical cancer has been introduced, entailing the use of a "broom" collection device with a liquid solution that means more cell specimens can be collected for microscopic examination. An added advantage is that the same procedure can also be used to collect samples for testing for the presence of the human papilloma virus or HPV, which has been linked (in 99.7 percent of cases) to the development of invasive cervical cancer. You might try requesting for such a procedure on your next visit to your ob-gyn.

"There have even been studies in China and Canada where the women performed the swabs on themselves by inserting the cervical brush intravaginally," writes Dr. Singson in a briefing paper. Studies have shown, she says, that the combination of an HPV DNA test and Pap smear improves the detection rate of precancerous lesions of the cervix compared to Pap smear alone.

For the moment, the HPV DNA test is available at the Makati Medical Center and will soon be available, starting July 26, at the Gynecologic Screening Clinic of the Asian Hospital and Medical Center in Alabang.

One drawback of this combined test is that it is rather expensive, costing P2,900. Dr. Singson says hospitals from all over the country can send their specimens to the MMC for testing, with results released after two weeks "since all specimens are batched and run once bi-weekly for lower costs."

* * *

IF you started sexual relations early (before 18), if you have had more than five sexual partners, if your partner has had more than five sexual partners, if you had your first pregnancy before 18, or if you have had five or more "normal" births—if any, some or all of these conditions apply to you, it would be worth your while (and P2,900) to undergo the HPV DNA and "liquid" Pap smear test.

A woman over 30 who tests positive for HPV DNA runs a much higher risk (as much as 116-fold) of developing cervical cancer than a woman of the same age who tests negative, warns Dr. Singson.

If a woman is found positive for HPV DNA, though, Dr. Singson assures that it is not necessarily a death warrant. "She should be immediately referred for colposcopy," says the doctor, referring to a procedure which uses a special magnifying instrument to view the cervix.

"Colposcopy is now accepted worldwide as the most studied method for detection of early cervical cancer," notes Dr. Singson. The procedure determines the presence of abnormal precancerous tissue which may require biopsy, and identifies the specific site of any abnormal lesions, thereby helping minimize unnecessary biopsies.

For now, colposcopy is available only at the Philippine General Hospital Colposcopy Clinic, the Makati Medical Center and the Gynecologic Screening Clinic at the Asian Hospital.

* * *

FOR some women, even precancerous cervical tissue may eventually disappear, assures Dr. Singson, who's a great believer in "natural" remedies like high doses of anti-oxidants and supplements, lifestyle changes for less stress and fatigue, and a healthier diet.

"Don't despair," she urges women who test positive for HPV DNA and/or abnormal cells. "Even if you test positive, your doctor will probably order a repeat test after nine months to confirm the diagnosis and see how you can manage the disease. "It's very manageable," Dr. Singson says, and what's more, very preventable. It would be a "crying shame," she declares, if women are to continue to die of cervical cancer only because they failed to undergo the necessary tests.

A crying shame, yes, and a shameful crime of neglect and ignorance.

More trivial pursuits

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

FOR readers who enjoy the lighter side of history, here are some facts from the Annual Report of the Municipal Board (1902):

There were 45 small Spanish bridges over esteros (Prof. Manolo Noche of UST may find it useful for his research), which must mean that there were (at least) in the main suburbs of the times 45 waterways. Anybody care to count what's left? It makes you wonder whether the city "sold" the area to a particular individual or these people just appropriated it. In that case, were their properties then re-valued for tax purposes?

The large field in front of the Luneta known as Camp Wallace was envisioned as a recreational ground for the public "where such sports as baseball, football, cricket, polo, and lawn tennis may be enjoyed." The problem with these Americans was that they hadn't quite realized just how hot it gets around here. Who's interested in running around chasing balls in this heat? (The rich do, but then Rizal Park is mainly for the masses today now that the rich have fled to the suburbs.) Another part of the field was going to be a children's playground.

It was observed that "no city was ever more in need of play grounds or recreation fields where the general public may seek amusement and exercise. Owing to the lack of ordinary healthful exercise and diversion, the great army of clerks and officials ... find but little to do after office hours." (Well, there are always the malls, billiards, movies, fast-food outlets, but somehow I don't think that's quite what those planners had in mind.)

Mr. Mehan had improved the Botanical Gardens on the Paseo de Bagumbayan. Apparently the place once had "many beautiful trees and plants and a splendid collection of orchids." This was destroyed, with the exception of the larger trees, during the Philippine-American War but by 1902 the deer park was completed, "neatly fenced with wire and it contains a number of deer of different kinds from the various islands of the archipelago. There is also a monkey cage and from time to time the animals and the buildings are added to." Mehan believed that "this park can be made one of the most attractive spots in the city."

Watering of plants and trees was done at night and all principal streets in the city were cleaned twice, some three and four times daily. (No wonder Manila was considered "clean" once upon a time.) However, in many streets, especially in the suburbs, the work was increased because the residents didn't bother with garbage cans but would throw garbage directly into the streets, whether day or night depending on convenience.

All public and rented buildings used by the city were cleaned daily and cared for. The *matadero* (slaughter house) had quarters for the superintendent that had been painted inside and outside and overhauled. Most of the suburbs had their own police stations and some pairings were amusing like the one in Anloague (Juan Luna, Binondo) which shared space with the internal revenue offices. (Maybe that's not such a bad idea; the investigators won't have to travel far.) Sampaloc had 10 mangers built for horses and Calle Moriones had a shed for ponies. The Parian also had a court as well as five cells where one imagines the guilty were immediately incarcerated.

A city pound and another police station was constructed on Azcarraga (Claro M. Recto) and Reina Regente. "All stray animals are taken up and impounded according to law. Owing to the numberless cur dogs which overrun the city during the last three years... a great number of dogs were impounded." By the by, if a dog wasn't claimed after a specified period, it was killed and cremated. Apparently few dogs were redeemed.

Manila had no sewerage or sewer system for the disposal of waste. Some of the houses beside esteros emptied their sewers into the streams. A few had their own private cesspools. But many of the finer homes had no facilities at all and "in the poorer quarters... the conditions are intolerable." (So what else is new?)

Advancement in the ranks of the police force depended on whether you had a "thorough knowledge of the English language." These were the first-class police. Third-class police had to read and write Spanish but, as soon as they acquired sufficient knowledge of English, they were advanced to 2nd class and their pay increased by 25 percent. Night classes were opened at various police stations for the benefit of the 3rd-class police. Examinations for promotions were given regularly.

There were also river patrols with their own boats. Since there was a cholera epidemic raging at the time, both first and third-class police acted as sanitary inspectors "helping to handle those who had died of cholera or cases under suspicion."

In 1902, the Chinese "monopolized" supplying food for prisoners "which is of a good class and required to be served properly cooked, in clean dishes." It seems there were abuses in the beginning, but the sergeant in charge had to submit daily reports to the commander and the latter furnished his chief with weekly reports.

It was observed that many of the prisoners confined for minor offences didn't really mind being cooped up for a couple of months since they were fed three meals a day and had their own bed, and there was no particular stigma or disgrace to going to jail. In these cases, it was advised that these prisoners do community service while those serving longer sentences be employed in road building.

Praying for peace

YOUNG BLOOD

Sheila R. Aguinsatan

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

WE arrived in Lala, Lanao del Norte, at around 7:30 p.m. It was dark. The road was quiet except for the sound of the engine of our 14-seater van.

There were 12 of us inside the vehicle but we were silent. None of us knew that the day before, three civilians had been killed and seven soldiers had been captured during a clash with rebels belonging to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in the town of Tubod, just 10 minutes' drive from where we were.

On our way to Lala, we passed through several roadblocks and military checkpoints. One military officer even joked that they were looking for wounded rebels so they could end their misery. Well, I thought, at least they can still afford to crack jokes amid the violence and tension in the area.

In this part of the country, it is not unusual to see military trucks and tanks fully loaded with armed soldiers traversing the dusty, renovated highways. Buses are routinely stopped for inspection, although I have often wondered why only the men are asked to get off to be frisked. After all, women can carry bombs, too!

We were in Lanao del Norte for a two-week training session on local development planning. This was after the bombing near the Davao International Airport. A red alert had been declared in several provinces, including Lanao del Norte, one of the more frequent sites of clashes between rebels and government troops. A few weeks earlier, a power transmission line in Iligan City had been toppled by a bomb explosion, plunging almost 90 percent of Mindanao into darkness. Nevertheless, our team had no second thoughts about going ahead with the scheduled training.

When we passed through Iligan City earlier that day, everything seemed normal. The commercial centers were operating as usual. The soldiers manning checkpoints were not so strict. But I noticed heavily armed soldiers guarding the gates of the Napocor power plant.

Our training was a success. Despite the tension, nothing disturbed our stay.

On the fourth day of our training, one of the participants told us that people in the nearby town of Maranding had panicked after somebody noticed a suspicious-looking bag left near a fruit stand. The police, however, found no bomb inside the bag.

In the afternoon, we went to Maranding to spend our fourth night there. It was business as usual in Maranding, with street vendors offering tasty chicken barbecue, *batchoy* (noodle soup) and *pusô* (rice cooked in coconut leaves).

That night, I had to buy rubber slippers. Although I was worried about going out at night (and even in the daytime), I went out anyway. I went to the nearest store so that I could be back quickly. But the whole time I was out, I could feel the hair standing in my arms even as I listened closely for the first sound of an explosion. I hurriedly picked a pair of slippers and rushed back home.

The following night, a friend and I decided that we wanted barbecue for dinner. We went to the market, but I ate as fast as I could, fearful that a bomb might explode anytime. The sight of so many pedicab drivers and people eating near the barbecue stalls brought back to mind TV footage of bombings of similar places in Zamboanga City and Cotabato City. The thought was scary.

The day after our training was done, I decided to go to Lanao del Sur. As we passed through Marawi City, Balo-i and several towns of Lanao del Norte, I was surprised to read in a newspaper that there had been a bloody encounter between MILF and government forces the day before.

I observed the passing scenery closely from the bus. The common sight of silent houses by the roadside met my eyes. As we passed through mountainous terrain and vast coconut plantations, I could feel the engine of our bus straining harder until we approached the next military checkpoint.

I could not keep count of the many checkpoints we passed. At one checkpoint, I could see sand bags lined in front of a small hut built on the highest point of a hill. A machine gun was mounted near the door. There were very few vehicles on the road. I did not wonder why.

When I came home a few weeks later, I was told that a group of MILF rebels had attacked a military checkpoint along the highway in Kauswagan, Lanao del Norte. Several civilians were killed. A local TV station showed footage of houses peppered with bullets.

I remembered my first trip to Zamboanga City two years ago to attend a training course in marketing. That was the time American troops were conducting joint exercises with Philippine troops. The guns of the MILF and the Abu Sayyaf were silent. I could shop in the bazaars around the city at my leisure.

After my week-long training, I was comfortably sitting on the couch at home when I saw on TV that one of the biggest department stores in Zamboanga had been bombed and many had been killed. I remembered that just a few days earlier, I was strolling on that very same street and bought a pair of pants on that very same store.

Five months before I attended that training course in Zamboanga City, I visited Samal Island near Davao City. I had a wonderful time at the beautiful Paradise Island Beach Resort, playing billiards, visiting the mini-zoo and feasting my eyes on various sights. The morning after I had my first trip on a pump boat to Davao, I learned that on the other side of the island, at Pearl Farm, the Abu Sayyaf had kidnapped some guests the night before.

Months after the bombing in Davao City, tension still filled the air. The Abu Sayyaf was still kidnapping civilians in Jolo and MILF rebels were attacking government troops in some parts of Lanao and Zamboanga. In one incident, 16 people were killed when MILF rebels attacked their village. On the same day, a bus was hijacked and the driver was killed.

Although there have been many times when I felt that I had a close shave with violence, I continue to travel to many places in Mindanao, with prayers for peace. As I do my small share to help in its development, I find fulfillment in having served others. I am lucky to be living in a peaceful part of Mindanao, but I pray for peace all over the island.

In a few weeks, I will be off again for Zamboanga del Sur for a three-day training program. I am praying for another safe and peaceful trip.

Sheila R. Aguinsatan, 24, is a development worker.

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Fools can make a difference

I READ with interest your editorial titled "Fool" (PDI, 6/29/03) criticizing Presidential Adviser on Special Concerns Norberto Gonzales on his idea of a transition president and the probability of a constitutional shift from a presidential to a parliamentary form of government. Allow me to give my reaction:

First, it is unfortunate that dreamers and people who dream of a better future are scorned and despised as fools. We probably need a "fool" to make a difference for a better tomorrow.

Gonzales of the Partido Demokratiko Sosyalista ng Pilipinas (PDSP) is identified with a group of dreamers. For four decades now, he and his comrades have been working for the uplift of the workers and farmers and other marginalized sectors. He once worked with the Federation of Free Workers (FFW) in the 1970s. He is identified with the social democratic movement in the Philippines.

Second, I am inclined to urge President Macapagal-Arroyo to run in 2004 despite her announcement last Dec. 30 that she would not run. When our people and country need her most, she should give up her personal preferences. She is the most prepared person to the highest office of the land. Her academic credentials and experience in government, *sabi ng mga unyonistang nakausap ko, "hindi matatawaran."*

Third, I support the call for a shift from a presidential to a parliamentary form of government. The high cost, slow process and gridlock in our two-chamber legislature are a roadblock to efficient and good governance.

Thus, the idea of charter change, through a constitutional convention or constituent assembly, is a timely issue to be discussed as the elections draw near.

We cannot afford to maintain the present system. If we continue, to paraphrase Winston Churchill, we may be moving forward with our back to the future.

—SONNY G. MATULA,
chief legal counsel,
Federation of Free Workers,
2/F FFW Building,
1943 Taft Avenue, Malate, Manila

Action on cases against MIAA chief

THIS refers to the column titled "Sleep of the tongue," of Conrado R. Banal Jr. last July 3, which cited the alleged inaction of the Office of the Ombudsman on the cases of Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) General Manager Edgardo Manda.

When Ombudsman Simeon V. Marcelo assumed office last Oct. 17, there were three active cases filed against Manda. As of this date, two of these cases are pending investigation by the assigned graft investigation officers while the third case has been submitted for resolution.

As regards the cases involving the Piatco controversy where Manda is also a respondent, Marcelo inhibited from them almost four months ago.

As to the alleged documented complaints from MIAA employees regarding Manda, they were all acted upon and resolved before Marcelo assumed office. One of the complaints was referred to the Commission on Audit for audit investigation.

In connection with the alleged ostentatious lifestyle of Manda, our Fact-Finding and Intelligence Research Office will conduct the appropriate investigation.

If Banal has any information or documents pertaining to this, it will be highly appreciated if he will transmit them to us so that we can take the appropriate action.

—ERNESTO M. NOCOS,
spokesperson/assistant ombudsman,
Office of the Ombudsman,
Agham Road,
Diliman, Quezon City

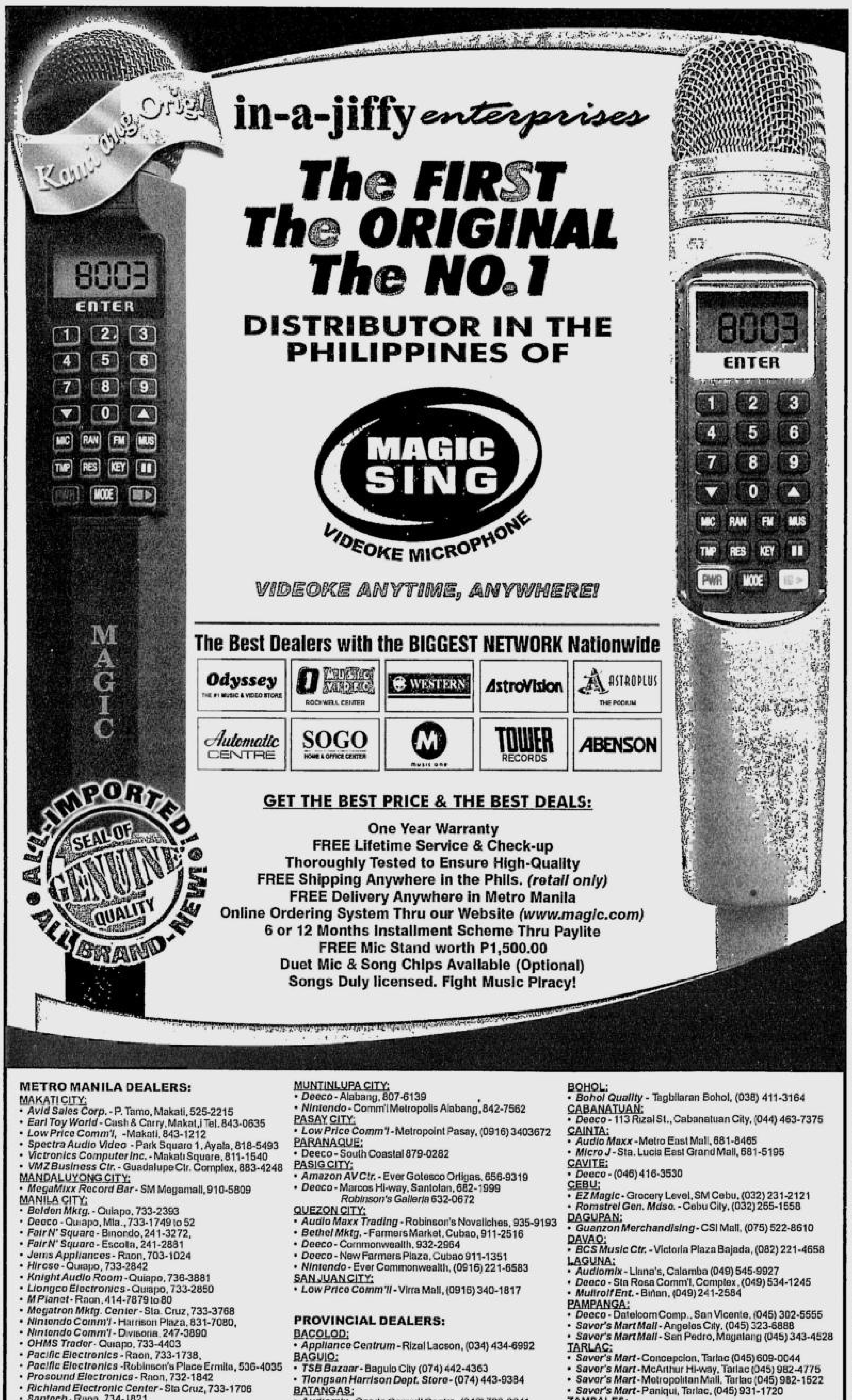
Report on Lacson should be made public

WE refer to a portion of Belinda Oilvares-Cunanan's column last July 7, regarding the Senate committee report on its investigations of l'affaire Lacson.

Cunanan says that, according to the Senate president, the Report (CR 237 or CR 66) will be sponsored on the floor when the Senate reconvenes in July. With due respect to the Senate president, I say that this is highly unlikely.

The Senate president is also reported to have said that the report is a "public document." Very well, then, the people have a right to know its contents. The INQUIRER will be doing a great service if it prints the document in its entirety.

—F. VICENTE REYES,
24 National Rd.,
Barangay Nalvo Norte,
Luna, La Union



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Does 'exploration' cover 'commercial utilization'?

PLEASE allow me this rejoinder to the reactions of former Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez and Mines Bureau Director Horacio Ramos to my commentary of June 29 on the Mineral Production Sharing Agreements covering a 12,000-hectare area in Samar that the DENR granted to two mining companies.

According to Alvarez, the MPSAs he signed covered "only the exploration activities to be conducted by the two mining companies and do not grant the right to mine." For his part, Ramos said the MPSAs were "intended for initial mineral exploration only."

The MPSAs say otherwise. They uniformly provide that, "The primary purpose of this Agreement is to provide for the rational exploration, development and commercial utilization of certain bauxite and other associated mineral deposits…"

The Mining Law prohibits the issuance of MPSAs in virgin forests, watersheds and forest reserves. Which brings me to an astounding statement made by Ramos. He wrote: "Area clearances from other DENR offices are not required because land classification as a mineral reservation makes it an area open to mining in accordance with the Mining Act of 1995. The Forest Reserve included most of the rain forests inside the Bauxite Mining Reservation, but 'excluded existing recognized claims and private rights.'"

Did Ramos just resolve the core contradiction of this issue? Five of the eight parcels of the mineral reservation fall within the forest reserve. Is he saying that the proclamation of President Fidel Ramos excluded these five parcels of mineral reserves because the Marcos proclamation is an "existing recognized claim and private right"?

Alvarez's statements are just as shocking. He declared that he would not allow development that compromise the integrity of the environment and cited as proof "the Northern Sierra Madre National Park which I authored with fellow legislators from the North." He further explained: "This is a 350,000-has. forest park where a rich nickel deposit in the midst of the park must remain dormant, unexploited." Then he added: "In the case of Samar, after the mines would have been used, those sites can become parks, tree plantations or biodiversity enriched areas."

I cannot blame the gentleman from the North for not caring as much for our environment in the South, but I cannot let pass his insult to Samarnon intelligence. Does he think us so stupid as to believe that a mined-out area can become biodiversity enriched? Is he suggesting that it is all right to cut our God-given trees to get at the bauxite beneath since they could be replaced with parks and tree plantations anyway?

We have a river in Samar that until now has not recovered from the poison regurgitated by mining operations that started in the 1950s. The next time Alvarez visits Samar, I would like to invite him there for a swim.

—MELCHOR F. NACARIO,
Mayor, Calbiga, Samar

Safety above everything else

THIS is in reaction to the column of Neil Cruz, titled "PCG, Marina sabotaging GMA?" last July 8.

The vessel, Golden Swan which Cruz mentioned in his column, has nothing to do with President Macapagal-Arroyo's Strong Republic Nautical Highway. This vessel is a Landing Craft Transport (LCT), which was unlawfully converted into a Liquefied Gas Carrier (LGC) without Marina's approval, by permanently bolting on to its deck, huge cylinders to carry anhydrous ammonia, which is listed in the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code as a dangerous cargo. It is a toxic chemical which, when unloaded through underground pipes from the vessel to the pier, may leak and endanger the lives of people.

This converted vessel is the first of its kind in the history of our maritime industry. Ordinarily an LCT should carry only general cargo, while a gas carrier should carry only dangerous chemicals or dangerous goods. In the case of Golden Swan, she wanted to carry both kinds of goods in violation of existing maritime rules and regulations.

Marina has to proceed with caution and prudence on this particular vessel because our records are replete with incidents wherein LCTs, like North Star and Golden Dragon, sank even during fair weather.

The Marina Board resolved these issues on Dec. 20, 2002 after months of deliberation, under the chairmanship of Secretary Leandro R. Mendoza. The board resolution said, "That Golden Swan will be allowed to operate as an LCT to carry ammonia in package form." (This means that it could carry ammonia in duly certified ISO tanks which are not bolted or attached to the vessel's deck so the cylinders can be discharged from the vessel to the pier without endangering people's lives.)

The owners of Golden Swan filed a petition for certiorari with the Court of Appeals but this was dismissed with finality.

Let it be mentioned here that safety is the main consideration, and the Water Transport Cluster of the DOTC cannot be railroaded to allow this vessel to operate to the detriment of the public and the environment. In fact, the Office of the Solicitor General has issued an opinion that the issue of safety is primordial and cannot be ignored and must be resolved in the case filed by the Philippine Petroleum Sea Transport Association, which is set for hearing on July 18. We have been haled to Congress many times to allow the vessel to operate but we know that President Macapagal will uphold our decision to have "safer seas and cleaner oceans."

—OSCAR M. SEVILLA,
administrator,
Maritime Industry Authority,
PPL Building, UN Avenue,
Ermita, Manila

Caught in the middle of two warring factions

THE NEWS report "Security men sow terror in Wack-Wack condo" by Luige del Puerto last July 2, was a blatant injustice both to our firm, Safeguard Armor Security Corp., and our security guards who daily risk life and limb in protecting the interests of Wack-Wack Twin Towers Condominium Corp. and its homeowners.

While we want to refrain from ascribing ill motives to your reporter, the one-sided slant was too obvious to ignore. His patent lack of initiative to make a balanced report is regrettable.

As always, when there are two warring factions, as in the WWTTCC case, the party in the middle, Safeguard and its guards, bears the brunt.

Safeguard has built a reputation for reliability over the past three decades. It will zealously guard this reputation.

For your reference, we have enclosed a copy of "The Forum," the official newsletter of WWTTCC, which we believe carries a truer picture than the self-styled spokesperson of about 20 homeowners (a mere fraction of the more than 450 homeowners) was able to provide.

—DITAS C. SALES
vice president for marketing,
Safeguard Armor Security Corp.,
10/F Manufacturer's Building,
Plaza Sta. Cruz, Manila

There was no malice in the report. It was based on two public documents. One was a complaint the residents of the Twin Towers condominium in Wack-Wack lodged against Safeguard Armor Security Corp. with the office of the Civil Security Group of the Philippine National Police. The other was a police report filed with the Mandaluyong City Police last month.

I tried my best to get the side of Safeguard but failed.

First, I talked to the agency's chief security officer at the condominium, Efren Poster, but he refused to answer questions. He told me to talk to his superiors instead.

I also called the security agency's office but was told by a secretary that Perfecto Feliz, the manager/consultant, was on leave. I asked her if there was anyone else I could talk to, but she told me only Feliz would be able to answer my questions.

—LUIGE DEL PUERTO,
PDI reporter

W. House ignored CIA over Iraq claim—CBS

WASHINGTON—The White House ignored a request by the CIA to remove a statement in President George W. Bush's State of the Union address that Iraq was seeking uranium from Africa for its nuclear weapons program, CBS Evening News reported on Thursday.

The White House acknowledged this week it had been a mistake to put the claim about Iraq seeking uranium from Africa in Bush's January speech and that documents alleging a transaction between Iraq and Niger had been forged.

Critics have seized on the statement as a prime example of the Bush administration's campaign to mislead the public by hyping the threat posed by Iraq to gain support for the war.

The CIA checked the parts Bush's speech dealing with Iraq's weapons of mass destruction for accuracy and CIA officials warned White House National Security Council staff that the intelligence was not strong enough to flatly state that Iraq tried to buy uranium from Africa, CBS News said.

White House officials argued that since a paper issued by the British government contained the assertion, if it was attributed to Britain it would be factually accurate, CBS said.

CIA officials dropped their objections, CBS said.

A CIA spokesperson declined comment on the CBS report, which was sourced to senior Bush administration officials. A White House spokesperson could not immediately be reached for comment.

In a related development, the CIA told British intelligence last year that the American intelligence agency did not have high confidence in reports that Iraq had tried to acquire uranium from Africa, a US official said.

"We had concerns about the veracity of the story and we shared those concerns with them but in the end they thought that their information was solid and they went with it," the US official said on condition of anonymity.

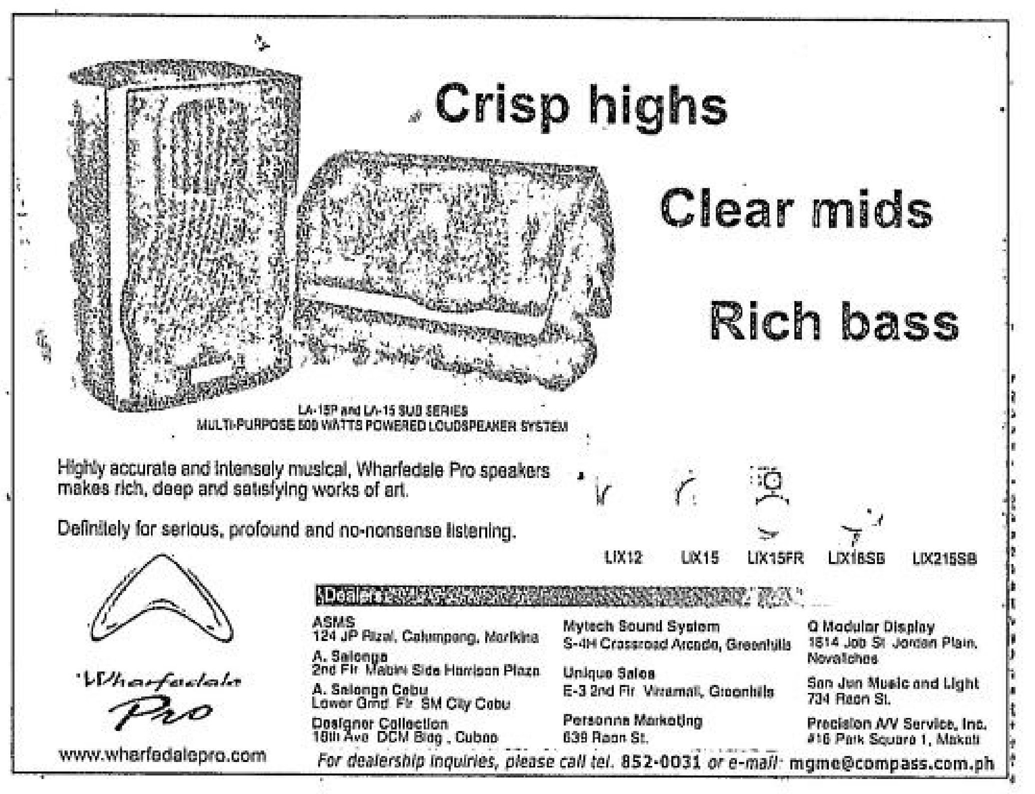
British intelligence decided the information they had was solid and included it in a report issued in September 2002, the official said.

The CIA shared its concerns shortly before the British report was issued and before the American intelligence agency had seen the Niger documents, which now have been determined to be forgeries.

"We had no idea they were forgeries, we didn't get the documents until much later," the US official said. "We weren't sure it was true, didn't have high confidence of it being accurate for a variety of reasons," the official said.

The Washington Post first reported the CIA's unsuccessful effort to persuade Britain to drop the Iraq uranium claim. The British government rejected the US suggestion, saying it had separate intelligence unavailable to the United States, the newspaper reported. *Reuters*

US President George W. Bush walks up to African elephants as his daughter Barbara follows cautiously behind him at the Mokolodi Nature Reserve in Gaborone, Bostwana, July 10. Bush will be in Uganda on Friday, the fourth stop on his five-nation diplomatic safari in Africa. REUTERS



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Iraq problems mount for Bush

By Christophe de Roquefeuil

WASHINGTON—The near daily deaths of American soldiers, the lack of weapons of mass destruction and the cost of the Iraq conflict are taking a toll on the administration of President George W. Bush.

Bush, on a trip to Africa, noted Thursday that there was a "security issue" in Iraq, but pledged that US forces would be "tough" and stay the course after two more soldiers were killed there.

And, with problems mounting on the ground in Iraq after what once seemed a clear-cut victory, and opposition Democrats back home slamming lack of evidence on weapons of mass destruction, a poll also showed Thursday that Americans' disenchantment with their government's war on Iraq is growing.

The growing list of US soldiers killed in Iraq since Bush announced an end to "major combat" in Iraq on May 1 is beginning to weigh on public opinion.

Less than half US citizens now believe the United States is in control in Iraq, according to a CBS News poll. And just over half think removing Saddam Hussein from power was worth the cost.

Only 45 percent of those asked said they thought the US was in command on the ground, compared with 71 percent in April.

In early May, shortly after Saddam's ouster, 65 percent of Americans said they thought the war was worth the cost. Today, the figure is 54 percent.

Some 55 percent said they thought weapons of mass destruction (WDM) would eventually be found in Iraq—down from 44 percent last month.

And Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Wednesday the cost of operations in Iraq had soared to some $3.9 billion a month, double April's estimates.

Opposition Democrats meanwhile stepped up criticism of the president and calls for an inquiry into the intelligence used to justify the war.

"It's time for the president to step up and tell the truth, that the war is continuing and so are the casualties," Sen. John Kerry, a leading contender for the Democratic nomination for next year's presidential election, said Thursday.

Kerry said Bush should admit that there are not enough troops in Iraq.

"I'm now concerned that we have the world's best-trained soldiers serving as policemen in what seems to be a shooting gallery," added Sen. Edward Kennedy, another Democrat.

Two other senior US senators denounced US policy in Iraq Thursday, calling on the US administration to end its quarrel with France and Germany and to ask for Nato forces to back up US troops currently in Iraq.

"There's a need to internationalize this and to bring in Nato in particular," Sen. Joseph Biden of the Senate foreign relations committee said adding that he supports the addition of UN forces in Iraq as well.

Sen. Carl Levin, top Democrat on the Senate intelligence committee said it was "a mystery" why the Bush administration had not made a formal request for Nato forces in Iraq.

"We have got to end the feud with France and Germany," the Michigan Democrat said.

Nearly all Democrats voted to allow Bush to order war against Iraq and had refrained from criticizing the campaign, fearing a public backlash.

Republicans are now acknowledging the change of mood.

Senator John McCain, a Republican Vietnam War veteran, said the problem was that "Americans are unsure about the future of our involvement in Iraq."

He added that there was a growing feeling of "not dissatisfaction, not anger, but unease." General Tommy Franks, who last week retired as commander of US forces in Iraq, told a congressional panel Wednesday that it would probably not be possible to scale back the estimated 148,000 US troops in Iraq anytime soon.

Aside from Britain, which is deeply involved in Iraq, the countries which have pledged troops are keeping their deployments relatively small (3,000 for Italy, 2,300 for Poland, 1,640 for Ukraine and 1,300 for Spain). *AFP*

US to stay in Iraq for years—Franks

WASHINGTON—A retired US general who led US and British forces into Iraq has made clear US troops could stay in Iraq as long as four years, quashing hopes for a quick US exit from the Gulf state.

"I anticipate we'll be involved in Iraq in the future," Tommy Franks, a former head of the US Central Command, told the House armed services committee Thursday. "Whether that means two years or four years, I don't know." He said it would be unwise to raise expectation that "difficulties" faced by coalition forces in the country "will go away in one month or two months or three months."

The number of US soldiers killed in hostile action in Iraq since May 1, when President George W. Bush declared an end to major combat operations, has reached 31 as troops continued to hunt down Saddam Hussein loyalists.

Franks also expressed confidence in the reliability of US intelligence, and insisted weapons of mass destruction would be found.

He said there were roughly 1,000 suspect sites to comb through where weapons of mass destruction might be stashed.

"That work is not completed. And so I believe that we will either find the weapons or we will find evidence of the weapons of mass destruction," Franks said.

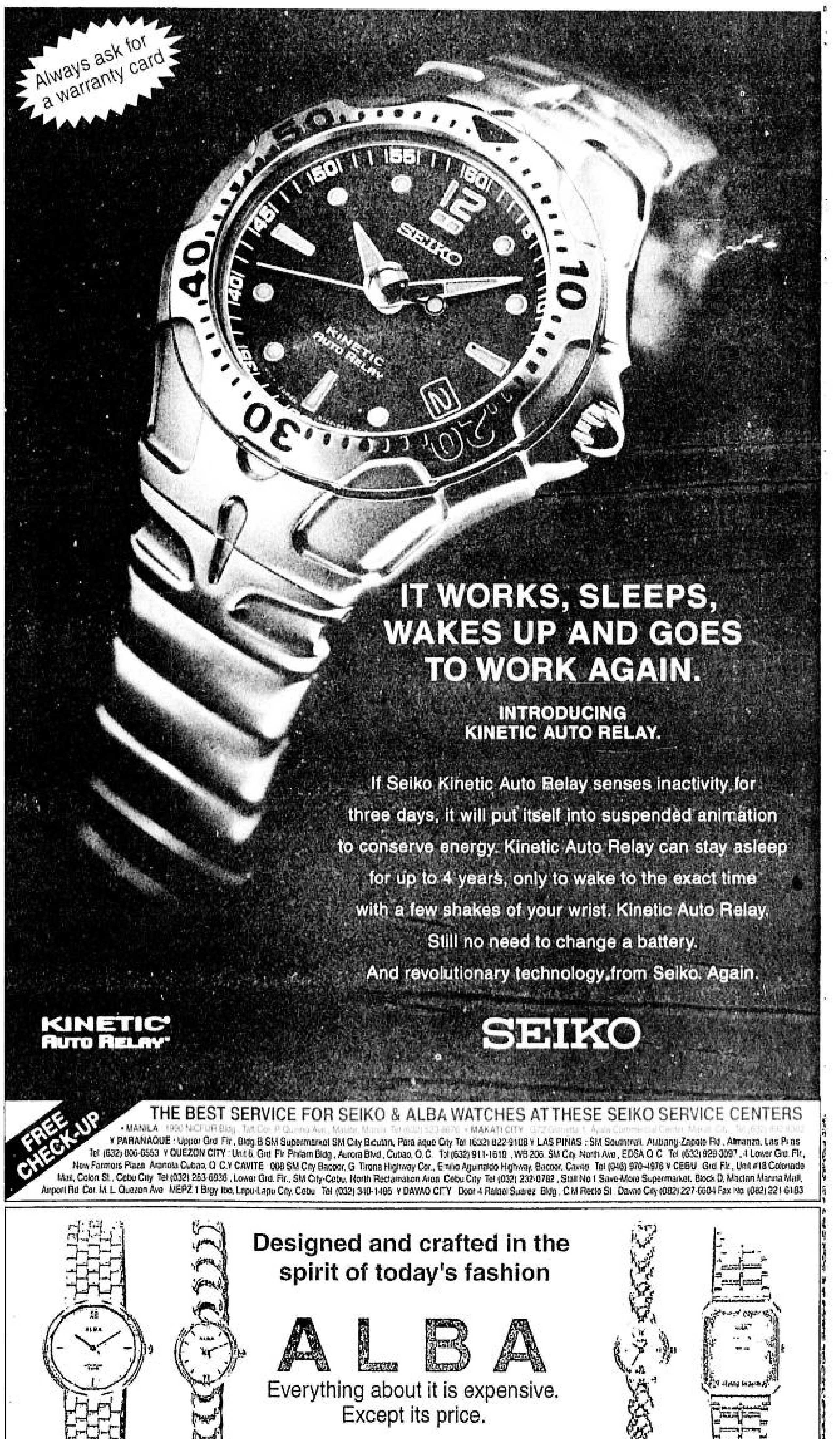
US military top brass were all convinced of the accuracy of intelligence concerning Saddam's arsenal and the certainty of the threat posed by such weapons before and during the war, he said.

When asked whether the White House had overstated the risk posed by the ousted Iraqi president, Franks answered: "I do not believe that at all."

Military officials donned protective gear on numerous occasions during the war, and ordered troops to do the same, after US intelligence strongly indicated that a chemical attack was imminent, Franks said.

Franks' vote of confidence in US security did little to check calls by opposition Democrats for a full-scale investigation into US intelligence lapses leading up to the war.

One leading Democrat and presidential candidate, Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry, on Thursday lent his voice to the growing chorus of lawmakers calling for a thorough congressional probe. *AFP*



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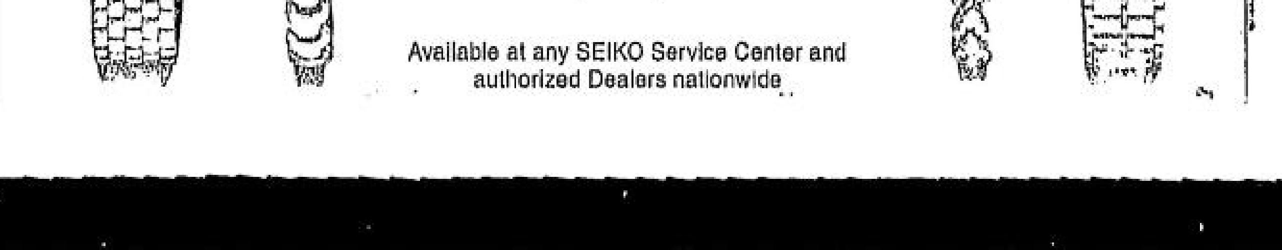

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TAYYABA Sajjad and her ailing daughter Noor Fathima wait for a ride at a bus terminal in Lahore, Pakistan, July 11. The girl is to have a heart surgery in Delhi. AP

1st bus from Pakistan in 18 months enters India as rivals' ties get warm

WAGAH, India—The first bus from Pakistan in 18 months crossed into India Friday carrying a sick child and 27 other passengers in the latest sign of a thaw in relations between the arch-rivals.

Another bus from India, with 32 people on board which left New Delhi early morning, was heading toward the Wagah border crossing and from there on to the terminus in the eastern Pakistan city of Lahore.

The buses are the first cross-border transport links between the neighbors since ties were cut after a Dec. 13, 2001 attack on the Indian parliament by gunmen New Delhi claims were sponsored by Islamabad. Pakistan denies the allegation.

"We welcome the resumption of the service and hope it will lead to improvement of relations between Pakistan and India," Pakistani Tourism Minister Raess Munir Ahmed said before the Pakistan bus departed from Lahore at dawn.

Among passengers on the bus from Pakistan was 2-year-old Noor Fatima who was being taken by her mother for treatment of a cardiac problem at a clinic in the southern Indian city of Bangalore.

"She has a hole in the heart and people have told me they have the expertise at a Bangalore hospital to cure her," the mother said.

"The resumption of bus service is a very happy moment for me as it gives me hope for recovery of my child."

Police from the two countries were escorting the vehicles throughout the journeys, which take about 11 hours.

In New Delhi, a group of about 100 members of the radical Hindu group Shiv Sena, waving black flags and holding placards denouncing Pakistan, jeered the departure of the bus for Lahore.

"On the one hand we keep extending a hand of friendship and time and again Pakistan stabs us in the back," said Shiv Sena's Delhi chief Jay Bhagwan Goel.

"Pakistan should first stop the killings in Kashmir before the Indian government runs a bus service and takes steps towards normalizing relations," he said, promising a rowdy reception for the bus from Lahore when it arrived.

The Indian government accuses Pakistan of fomenting an uprising in its sector of disputed Kashmir and of sponsoring attacks by Islamic militants across the de facto border.

Pakistan insists it only provides moral and diplomatic support to militants it regards as freedom fighters engaged in a struggle for self-determination.

Delhi Transport Corp. chair A.J. Sawhney said there had been strong demand for tickets on the resumed twice-weekly service but that many would-be passengers lacked visas for Pakistan.

"We hope the bus service will help normalize relations between India and Pakistan," Sawhney told reporters.

"We have tried to make the bus as comfortable as possible for people longing to visit each other from across the border."

Passengers on the New Delhi bus said they were off to visit family in Pakistan, while some were returning to their home country. *AFP*

Lawyer to push for jail in Kenyan rapes

NAIROBI—A British lawyer acting for Kenyan women who claim they were raped by British soldiers during a period spanning 30 years said Thursday he would be seeking prison terms for those found guilty of the charges.

"There are three types of justice in this case. The first is (for) the individual soldiers who did these terrible things to be sent to prison for long terms," said London lawyer Martyn Day.

"The officers who failed in their duty to stop the rapes or report them to the Royal Military Police should be severely punished, while those women who were made to undergo such terrible trauma (must) be properly compensated," Day added.

The rapes, which were allegedly carried out by British troops on training operations in Kenya, are alleged to have taken place with the full knowledge of British training commanders and the Kenyan government.

Day said he was set to launch a group action in a British high court either in September or October for the genuine cases among the 650 Samburu and Maasai women who have come forward as rape victims.

He said written evidence proved that since 1977, British commanders in two Kenyan training ranges had been informed 12 times of incidents of rape, but failed to forward the complaints to London for investigation.

Day told a news conference that "he had gathered solid and corroborative evidence from police stations and hospitals, as well as interviewing Kenyan local administrators on the extent of the rape."

Day said the two Kenyan ranges—Dol Dol and Archer Post—were among the largest British army training centers in the world and that some 3,000 troops were sent there annually to polish their combat skills.

They were also the sites where the heaviest artillery was used, with accidents involving ordance killing and maining local tribesmen in their hundreds, he explained.

In November, London paid a $4.5 million out-of-court compensation package to some 232 Kenyan tribesmen for death and injuries sustained after they stepped on live ordnance.

Day, who led the tribesmen's claim against the British government, said he was optimistic that the rape suit would also be settled out of court.

"This case is massively embarrassing to the British government, I am optimistic that the government will call us to settle the issue out of court, just like the other one," Day said.

Day said officers of Britain's Royal Military Police had been in the country since April and had so far interviewed 25 of the 650 woman plaintiffs. *AFP*

Peru doc opens skull using drill, pliers

LIMA, Peru—Lacking the proper instruments, a Peruvian doctor at a state hospital in the Andean highlands used a drill and pliers to perform brain surgery on a man who had been injured in a fight, the doctor said on Thursday.

"We have no (neurosurgical) instruments at the hospital... He was dying, so I had no choice but to run to a hardware store to buy a drill and use the pliers that I fix my car with, of course after sterilizing them," Cesar Venero said in a telephone interview.

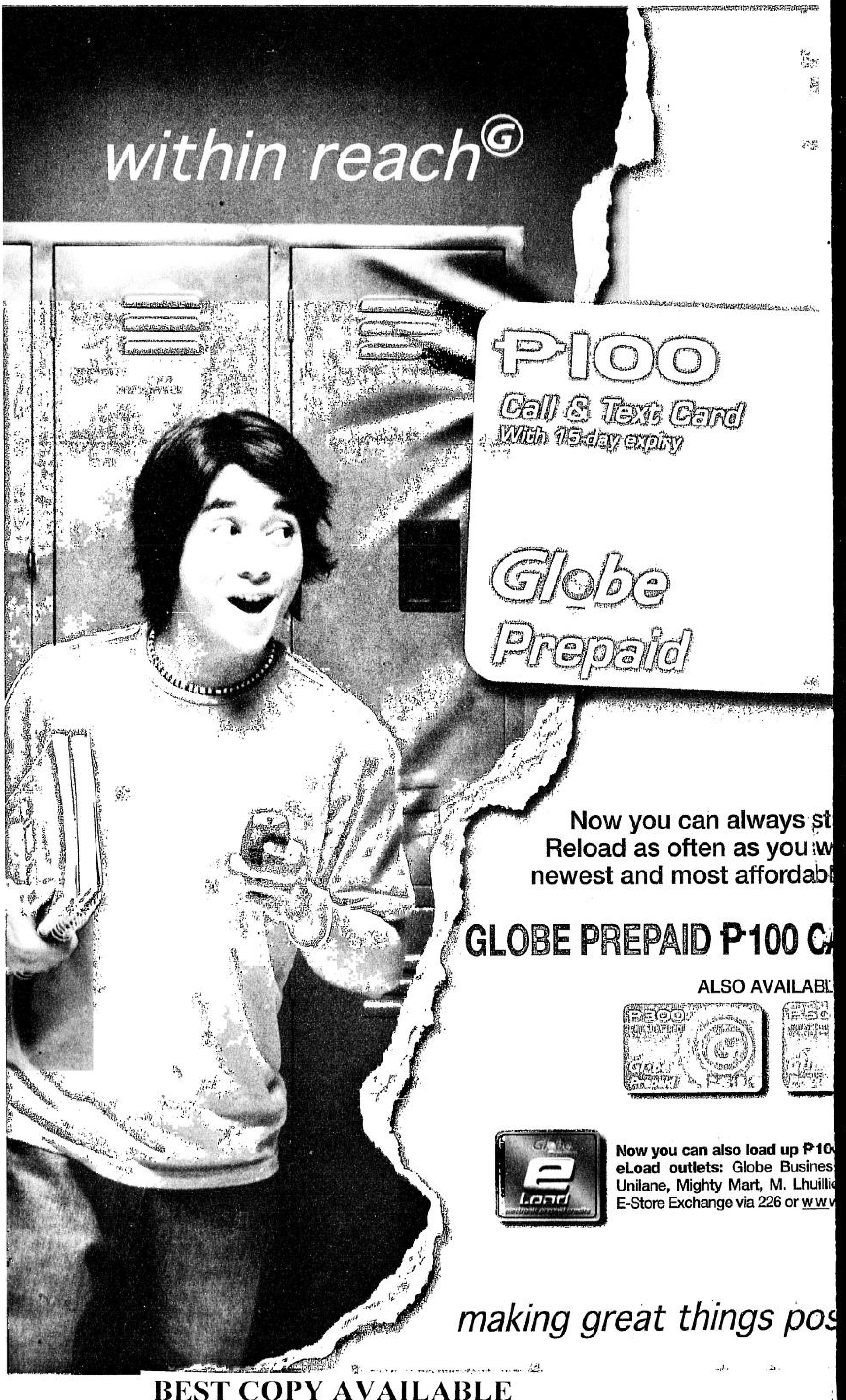
The patient, Centeno Quispe, 47, had arrived at the hospital in Andahuaylas, 400 km southeast of Lima, after being hit in the head with a metal object in a street-fight, Venero said.

"I drilled holes in his skull in a circle, leaving spaces of 5 millimeters, took out the bone with the pliers and removed the clots that were putting pressure on his brain," he said.

Andahuaylas is one of the poorest regions of Peru, a country in which more than half its 27 million people live below the poverty line.

Venero, who earns $430 a month, said he had used tools from a hardware store on five previous occasions but for less serious operations.

Quispe was making a good recovery in a hospital in Peru's capital, Lima. *Reuters*



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18 US firms linked to sale of military equipment to Iran

WASHINGTON—Eighteen US companies are under investigation for allegedly selling hi-tech military equipment to Iran through a London-based front company, the Bureau of Customs and Immigration Enforcement (CIE) said Thursday.

The illegal exports, the CIE said in a statement, include components for HAWK missiles, F-14 Tomcat fighter jets, F-4 Phantom fighter jets, F-5 fighter jets, C-130 Hercules aircraft and military radars.

The statement said searches were carried out Wednesday in the offices of the 18 companies in 10 states. It said they allegedly furnished the arms components to the British company, which itself procures weapons for the Iranian military.

The CIE identified the London company as "Multicore, Ltd. (also known as) AKS Industries." The US firms were not named.

"The affidavit alleges that Multicore conducts no legitimate business and receives military purchasing instructions from the Iranian government," said the statement.

"This case illustrates one of those ways of keeping military components out of the hands of people who by law cannot possess them," said Asa Hutchinson, Undersecretary for Border Transportation Security at the Department of Homeland Security.

Iran, which Washington lists as a country that supports terrorism, is under a US weapons supply embargo.

"The lives of American warfighters can be placed at direct risk through illegal transfer of military components in violation of the Arms Export Control Act," said Joseph Schmitz, chief of the Pentagon's Defense Criminal Investigative Service (DCIS), which is participating in the investigation.

"Yesterday, ICE and DCIS agents executed search warrants on 18 businesses in 10 states, including Louisiana, Texas, New Hampshire, Colorado, New York, Florida, Kansas, Wisconsin, Oregon, and South Carolina," said the CIE statement.

"In addition, agents served seven grand jury subpoenas. Agents made no arrests during the searches. To date, no charges have been brought against the any of the US companies... The investigation continues," it said.

"The firms are suspected of violating the Arms Export Control Act," said the CIE statement.

"According to affidavits filed in support of the warrants, the firms are suspected of illegally exporting items on the US Munitions List without obtaining the required export license from the US State Department." *AFP*

FREED DISSIDENT–Thich Quang Do, 74, a Nobel Peace Prize nominee and perhaps the most prominent dissident in Vietnam, enjoys a cup of tea in Ho Chi Minh City July 8, two weeks after his release from house arrest. Do says he will continue to lobby for religious freedom and democracy. AP

2 Vietnamese in corruption mess executed

HANOI—A Vietnamese businessman and a state bank official convicted of defrauding the government of more than $350 million were executed Friday by firing squad in Ho Chi Minh City, officials said.

Blindfolded and tied to a stake at the southern business capital's Thu Duc killing grounds, Tang Minh Phung and Pham Nhat Hong were shot in a dawn execution, a Ho Chi Minh City People's Court official said.

The pair were among six people sentenced to death in August 1999 for their role in a massive corruption scam.

Their executions, which take the year's total to 18, followed last month's conclusion to the trial of a Ho Chi Minh City mafia boss in a scandal that exposed a web of corruption and links to organized crime at the heart of the communist regime.

Hanoi has vowed to crack down on economic crimes and has instructed courts to hand out stiff punishments to those found guilty in order to appear firm in dealing with the rampant corruption within the state and business sectors.

Entrepreneur Phung, and his partner Lien Khui Thin, who has yet to be executed, were found guilty of building a complex network of 47 companies that defaulted on $357 million in loans to state banks.

Hong was deputy director of the Ho Chi Minh City branch of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of Vietnam (Incombank).

Four others among the 77 people found guilty in the case were also sentenced to death, including Nguyen Ngoc Bich, deputy director of the Bank of Foreign Trade of Vietnam (Vietcombank) in Ho Chi Minh City. *AFP*

Wrong turns, jammed guns led to Lynch capture

WASHINGTON—A US army report blamed jammed weapons, wrong turns, fatigue and the harsh environment for a March 23 ambush in Iraq in which 11 soldiers died and six, including Private Jessica Lynch, were captured.

The ambush of the 507th Maintenance Company's convoy near the southern city of Nasiriyah resulted in the worst single-day loss of life during the US-led invasion of Iraq.

Lynch's dramatic rescue April 1 made her a national hero, though the report indicates military officials initially got the story of her capture wrong.

The report, which is expected to be released officially by next week, praises the company's soldiers for their conduct and does not recommend any disciplinary action.

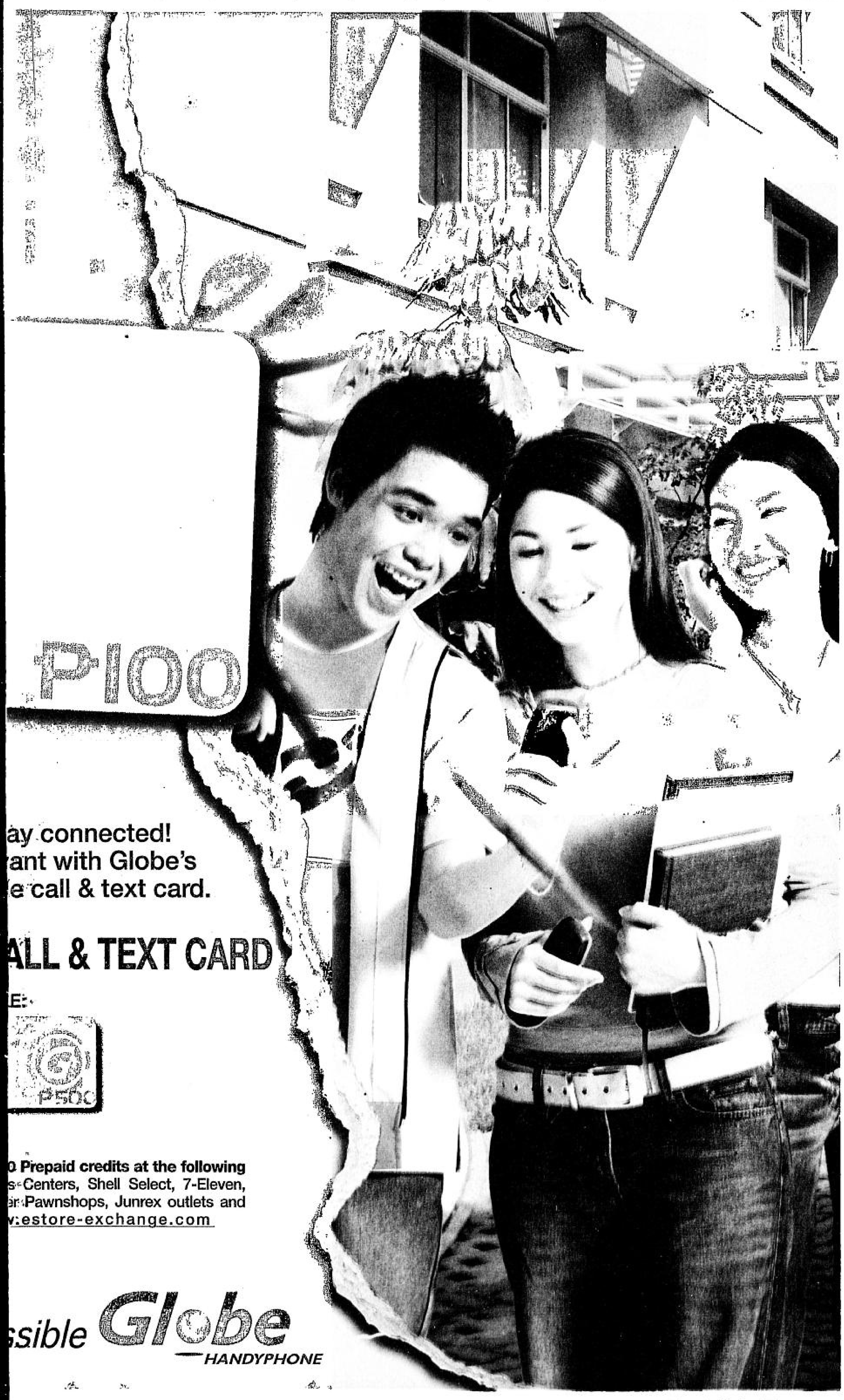
"They fought the best they could until there was no longer a means to resist. They defeated ambushes, overcame hastily prepared enemy obstacles, defended one another, provided lifesaving aid and inflicted casualties on the enemy," it said.

The ambush occurred after 33 soldiers from the company in 18 vehicles became separated from the main US military advance into Iraq after falling more than 12 hours behind. They had been on the road for three days with little sleep.

In his efforts to catch up, the company commander, Capt. Troy King, took the wrong route into Iraqi-held Nasiriyah instead of bypassing the city, the report said.

On their way into the city, they passed two checkpoints that appeared to be manned by armed Iraqi soldiers, who waved at the convoy, according to the report.

The convoy came under attack while passing through Nasiriyah a second time after a series of wrong turns. For more than an hour, the soldiers fought a running battle with their attackers. In the confusion, the convoy became split into three smaller groups. Vehicles became disabled and crashed into each other. *AFP*



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DOLE REVELATION

Most firms in S. Tagalog break labor laws

By Marlon Ramos, *PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

CALAMBA CITY—An official of the Department of Labor and Employment in Southern Tagalog yesterday admitted that over 80 percent of firms in the region do not conform with the government's labor standards.

The violations include infringement in the payment of basic wages and rules regarding the safety and health of the workers.

But despite the big number of violators, Engineer Ignacio Sanqui Jr., chief of Labor Standards Enforcement Division, said number of companies which do not comply with labor laws have significantly decreased in the past years.

"Two years ago, almost 86 percent of companies in the region were violating laws on basic wages and the conduct of maintaining the safety and health of their employees. But our continued routine and complaint inspections in these establishments have been successful in bringing the number down," Sanqui told the INQUIRER.

He said there are about 19 industrial parks, the most in the country, and economic zones in the region. It is comprised of 555 local and foreign-owned companies.

Majority of employees in these ecozones are contractual workers, Sanqui said. He maintained that most of offenders are involved in the service, retail and small manufacturing industries like gasoline stations, restaurants and garments factories. He said companies whose personnel are over a hundred are "diligently following the labor code."

The issue on the flourishing of below-par factories in the country started after the INQUIRER published a story on the distressing situation of employees of Anvil Ensembles Inc., an exporter of baby clothes in the US.

Employees of the garment factory said they are forced to take insomnia-inducing tablets to be able to continue working up to 72 hours.

Cynical

A militant labor federation in Southern Tagalog scoffed at DOLE for being "inutile and ineffective in protecting workers' rights and welfare.

Fort Fortuna, chair of the militant Pagkakaisa ng mga Manggagawa sa Timog Katagalugan-Kilusang Mayo Uno (Pamantik-KMU), said he is not surprised with Sanqui's revelation. He said the number of offenders could even be bigger than reported.

"The labor department, together with the local government and police units, have continuously followed the dictates of big foreign-owned companies. Instead of helping the workers, they are the number one protector of labor violators in the country," Fortuna lamented.

He said they are skeptical about the Dole's decision to order Anvil to pay its workers. He said if Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas is really sincere in eradicating sweatshops in the country, "she should start going after the big fish."

Inspection

Sanqui, however, denied Fortuna's allegation that the labor department is tolerating sweatshops in the country. He said they regularly do routine inspections to ensure that workers, especially those in danger areas, are receiving health benefits from the employers.

"We have (a) yearly plan of action concerning the routine inspections of business establishments. We are not sleeping on our jobs," Sanqui stated.

He said they have scheduled 1,476 inspections this year. They conduct about 150 routine reviews of factories and companies in the region monthly.

Sanqui said that they also conduct complaint inspections based on sworn statements from complaining employees.

"In the case of Anvil, the statement was only faxed to our office from an anonymous person. So what we did was to conduct a routine inspection. We always get affidavits and sworn statements from the employees (to authenticate the report)," Sanqui explained.

Sanqui said they give the companies five days to comply with their standards. He explained that of every 80 violators, only 15 percent are able to comply within the given time.

He said they will then issue an order of compliance to the 85 percent who fail to comply. Of those companies, only half will be able to follow Dole's order. The remaining half would then face a labor standards case.

Sanqui said they also issue a writ of execution to the company to compel them to answer the complaints of their employees.

He said majority of companies who violate the rules on safety and health of workers were simply ignorant of the law. Some have no financial means to comply with their standards, Sanqui added.

"Most of the violators don't have company safety men. Many do not also maintain a company doctor, dentist and full time nurse in work areas," Sanqui noted.

He said the law requires one safetyman per 1,000 workers.

"But if a small company, like a garments factory, does not have that many personnel, the owner would usually opt not to hire a safety man," Sanqui added.

Bigger problem

But Fortuna believes that labor contractualization is a much bigger problem of workers in the country. He said workers do not enjoy benefits and job security because companies sack their employees before they can get a regular status.

"The Dole and other government agencies are callously neglecting worker's welfare by tolerating contractualization. Without job security and the right to join a union, workers are living in a rat-like situation," Fortuna insisted.

Sanqui reiterated that there are no laws that prohibit companies from hiring contractual employees. He said companies are bound by the law to regularize the workers should they be hired for over six months.

He also admitted that the labor code should be amended to avoid the loopholes, which, he said, is causing the delay in the resolution of so many cases.

Rice traders protest NFA rice rationing

TARLAC CITY—No cheap rice would be sold in Tarlac in the next few days if retailers do not get fresh stocks from the National Food Authority.

Members of the Confederation of Grains Retailers of Tarlac (Grecon-Tarlac) said this is in protest of what some of them call is "arbitrary rationing."

They said they could withdraw only 15 bags of rice from the NFA a week if they were accredited retailers in the barangays. Only 30 bags a week are allowed for those selling NFA rice in the public markets.

The retailers also wanted NFA officials to explain why such rationing had to take place when the NFA recently sold some 38,000 bags of imported rice kept at the Tarlac warehouse allegedly under the special market determined price (SMDP) scheme.

They also wanted the NFA to explain why the rolling stores project of Tarlac Rep. Benigno Aquino III continued to get a huge supply of NFA rice.

Serafin Manalili, Tarlac NFA manager, denied any rationing of stocks to retailers, saying the allocation scheme had never changed.

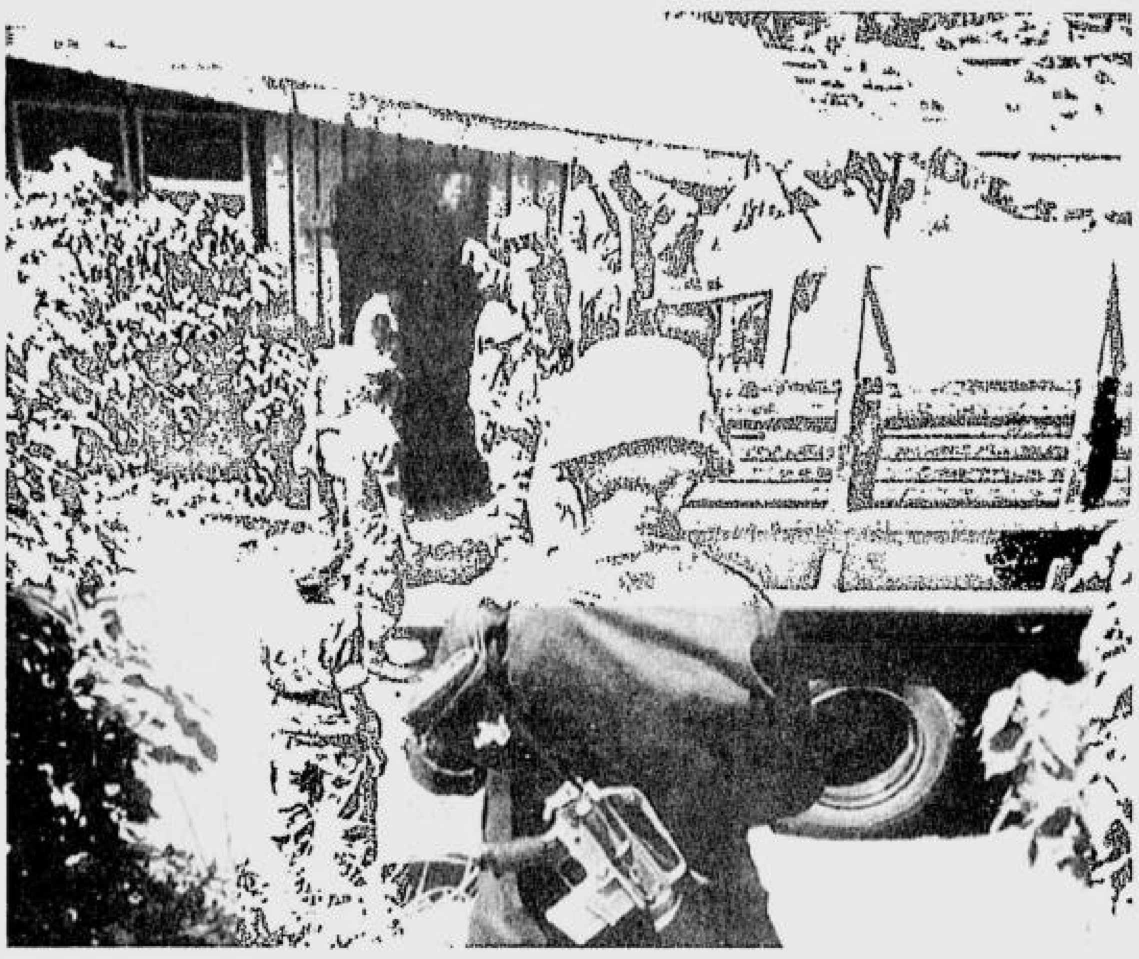
For July, he said, the province has a target allocation of 60,000 bags and this is spread across market-based and barangay-based retailers.

There are 250 registered retailers in the province. The big number of retailers has reduced the allocation, Manalili said.

The monthly target allocation, he said, is based on a five-year comparative consumption data. Tarlac consumes an average of 9,100 bags a day, 1,800 of which come from the NFA.

Sources claimed that the stock imported rice from India was allowed to rot so this could be sold through the SMDP scheme. The items were sold at P657 a bag, below the NFA price of P750 a bag.

Manalili confirmed that they bid out the imported rice stock through the SMDP. But he said they did this based on existing policies and procedures of the NFA. *Jo Clemente, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



ILLEGAL DWELLERS TOOTS SOBERANO

Philippine Military Academy officials in Fort del Pilar, Baguio City, implement the eviction order on "illegal dwellers" inside the military bases. The order is being implemented in other military reservations in the city, like this one in Camp Hendry Allen.

Cops lead in illegal logging in Vizcaya

By Melvin Gascon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

ALFONSO CASTAÑEDA, Nueva Vizcaya—Members of the Bugkalot community have revealed the involvement of policemen in the smuggling of illegally cut narra from the forests of this upland town.

They said policemen supposedly buy raw lumber from natives at P16 per board foot, ship and then sell these at more than P100 each board foot to furniture makers in Nueva Ecija and Pangasinan.

On Thursday, this correspondent chanced upon piles of newly-cut narra flitches with markings of "PNP" at a lumberyard in Barangay Pelaway.

The narra flitches were allegedly owned by some members of the Second Provincial Mobile Group based in this town, residents said.

The group was assigned in the area supposedly to provide security in the villages within the primary impact zone of the Casecnan Multi-purpose Irrigation and Power Project (CMIPP).

As this correspondent interviewed residents, policemen in civilian clothes watched from a distance. Residents requested this correspondent not to take pictures of the narra stockpiles, for security reasons.

Senior Insp. Emil Tumibay, group commander, said he would immediately investigate the report.

"You can be assured that we will not tolerate such practice, and that we will act on this once it turns out to be true," Tumibay told the INQUIRER.

The forests were declared watershed for the CMIPP, which provides additional electricity and irrigation to ricelands in Central Luzon.

The use of the Casecnan forests is covered by a Certificate of Ancestral Land Domain Claim by the Bugkalot tribe that allowed them to harvest a limited volume of forest resources for their livelihood.

The harvesting right was granted in exchange for the tribe members' duty, in cooperation with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, to protect the forests against massive cutting of trees.

Rolando Valdez, community environment officer covering the area, said he has ordered the immediate relief of personnel assigned in the DENR field office in the area and replaced them with forest rangers.

Timber are usually shipped out at night, residents said, adding that shippers give out as much as P20,000 in bribe per shipment.

Rights group fear delayed justice for slain comrades

STA. CRUZ, Laguna—A group of human rights advocates, the "Campaign Committee: Justice for Ka Eden and Ka Eddie," has expressed "extreme disappointment and frustration" over the snail-paced investigation of the double murders of human rights activists Eden Marcellana and Eddie Gumanoy in Oriental Mindoro.

The committee disclosed that based on reliable information, the investigation by the Department of Justice's Task Force Mindoro led by Undersecretary Jose Calida is "headed for a whitewash as only a certain M/Sgt. Donald Caigas of the 204th Infantry Battalion, two civilian assets of the military and several John Does are slated to be named respondents in a complaint still to be filed by the National Bureau of Investigation."

The statement revealed that the committee has done its part in getting the testimonies of nine other victim-witnesses to the kidnapping and murder, and gathering other important pieces of evidence and testimonies through two fact-finding missions in Oriental Mindoro.

It also disclosed that the committee has presented its findings to two public hearings of the House Committee on Civil, Political and Human Rights and the Senate Human Rights and Justice Committee. "We have cooperated fully with the DOJ Task Force Mindoro. We have also filed a complaint at the Commission on Human Rights against Col. Jovito Palparan and other officers of the 204th Infantry Battalion who we consider to be the brains behind this reprehensible killings of human rights activists in Mindoro."

The group expressed its frustration, as "all our efforts have apparently been in vain, at least in so far as getting the (Macapagal administration) to run after the killers and masterminds of this truly heinous crime."

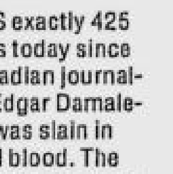
"If there is no smoking gun to implicate Col. Jovito Palparan and other high-ranking officers of the 204th IB in the cold-blooded murders of Marcellana and Gumanoy it is because the government investigators chose to look the other way," the statement said.

The group heaped the blames on the Macapagal administration for the continued freedom of the perpetrators and masterminds of the dastardly crimes.

They asked the President to immediately put Palparan under immediate preventive suspension and withdraw his promotion by Malacañang to brigadier general, among other demands and immediately order a transparent and thorough investigation into the series of killings and other human rights violations in Mindoro and in particular, the role of the AFP's 204th IB in these abuses, among other demands.

Meanwhile, a growing fear of widespread human rights violations surfaced after the latest pronouncements of President Macapagal-Arroyo that her government will unmask the so-called Red front organizations and will run after the CPP-NPA-NDF "terrorists masquerading as revolutionaries." *Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Countdown for Justice



WAPILE

IT IS exactly 425 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

Tarlac mediamen condemn columnist's murder

TARLAC CITY—Print and radio reporters in Tarlac have condemned the murder of a columnist of a community weekly on Tuesday, saying the attack was a "direct affront on the freedom of the press."

Bonifacio Gregorio, 55, who wrote for the tabloid Dyaryo Banat, was shot dead on Tuesday night by a lone gunman in front of his house in Barangay Caramutan, La Paz town, about 20 km from this city. Gregorio, who suffered three bullet wounds in the head, died while being treated at the Ramos General Hospital.

In a manifesto, Tarlac mediamen urged law enforcers "to leave no stone unturned to bring justice to the family of (Gregorio), if only to prove that such (violent) act does not have a place in a civilized society like ours."

Gregorio's death "has sent (a) spine-chilling message to the working press should justice not be (served) and the culprits not be punished," the statement, which is being passed around mediamen in the province, said.

"We challenge the local government officials of La Paz to prove that the scale of justice remains balanced by initiating moves to go after the killer of Gregorio as soon as possible."

Abel Pablo, publisher of the local weekly Black and White and vice president for advocacy of the National Federation of Philippine Press Clubs, said they expect that media workers in the province would close ranks because of this "new threat to the media profession."

Pablo said Gregorio rang his mobile phone just before he was shot. Pablo, however, was unable to talk to the victim because, when he answered the call, all that he heard were the sounds of gunshots and later of women crying.

Pablo and Gregorio were colleagues at the Dyaryo Banat before the former put up his own newspaper.

Senior Supt. Angelo Sunglao, Tarlac police director, ordered the creation of Task Force Gregorio to investigate the columnist's death and track down his killer.

The task force will be assisted by agents of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

Supt. Danilo Alcoriza, Task Force Gregorio commander, said they are looking into several leads in the murder, among them, personal grudge and a supposed love triangle.

"We assure you we will leave no stone unturned in our investigation," Alcoriza told reporters on Thursday.

Reporters asked Alcoriza to relieve Insp. Rodrigo de Guzman, La Paz police chief, while the investigation is ongoing.

Jesus Malvar, publisher of Dyaryo Banat, claimed that Gregorio and De Guzman had clashed on several issues. De Guzman is also a member of the task force.

"I will personally bring up the matter (relief of De Guzman) before (Tarlac police director) Sunglao," Alcoriza said. *Russell Arador and Ronaldo Dizon, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Church urged to support war on drugs

BAGUIO CITY—Something is missing in the government's drive against illegal drugs—the church's involvement.

Rev. Simplicio Dang-awan Jr., a Protestant pastor, stressed that law enforcement alone is not enough in the fight against banned drugs, "especially if some law enforcers themselves are not trusted."

Dang-awan, senior minister of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines-Baguio, said the church must be involved in drug prevention education, counseling, and in giving support system to both would-be victims and those already addicted to drugs, who are willing to recover.

As former chaplain of the Philippine Air Force, Dang-awan said he had helped institutionalize drug prevention drive within the PAF since 1978.

"Warning the youth about the dire consequences of violating the law may send a threat to drug abusers, but once the threat disappears (as the drug issue disappears from the headlines) the scare tactic won't work anymore," he said. "The internal transformation of the individual through education is more effective and lasting."

Citing the experiences of Europe and the United States, Dang-awan said the country's various churches could get involved in massive drug prevention education drive, which, he stressed, must include cigarettes and alcohol.

"Cigarettes and alcohol are the gateway to which young people are initiated to more dangerous drugs," said Dang-awan, a former smoker and a member of Alcoholics Anonymous, an international organization of reformed alcoholics campaigning against alcohol intake.

Citing World Health Organization data, Dang-awan said smoking remains the world's top killer, followed by alcoholism and passive smoking.

He himself almost became part of the WHO's statistics when he almost died of peptic ulcer in 1983 after 24 years of smoking and 30 years of alcoholism.

Given a new lease on life, he eventually gave up smoking and alcohol, underwent rehabilitation, and sought a scholarship from the World Council of Churches to pursue a doctorate on Ministry on Alcohol Studies at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California, which he finished in 1991.

A drug prevention educator even before he totally gave up smoking and alcohol in 1983, Dang-awan said he was willing to volunteer his pastoral-psychological counseling expertise in drug education drives to help in the government's anti-drug war.

He said government could also tap the cooperation of evangelical or "Born Again" groups, Seventh Day Adventists and other religious groups that highly consider the human body as "the temple of the Lord" and thus consider smoking, alcohol and restricted drugs as "sinful." *Maurice Malanes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

3rd stude shot dead in Mindanao State U

MARAWI CITY—A graduating student of the Mindanao State University (MSU) main campus here was shot dead by a Maranao student suspected of being under the influence of drugs.

Abraham Marqueza, 21, of Tandag, Surigao del Sur, was sharing an umbrella with a friend at the MSU's Commercial Center on Sunday when a Maranao student approached and shot him for no apparent reason.

Marqueza, who hailed from a poor family, had been working his way through college as a waiter and dishwasher at the Lin-Su Pizza House in exchange for free meals.

A source told the INQUIRER that Marqueza's death was the third shooting incident inside the campus in a span of three weeks. Maranao students shot two other students, David Sumalpong and Tito Villarina last month. Sumalpong survived but Villarina died from bullet wounds.

No arrests were made.

The MSU administration had not come out with a statement on the deaths of the students.

This prompted the MSU Student Supreme Government to call for a campus-wide protest.

The protest-rally would start on Monday.

Aside from the shooting incidents, the students would also raise issues such as the alleged presence of drug pushers in the campus, the carrying of firearms by some students, and the presence of squatters inside a number of MSU properties.

MSU, which was founded in 1961, is often called the Mindanao version of the University of the Philippines.

Despite recent developments including the abduction of teachers and students, MSU continues to attract students from poor families all over Mindanao.

In Iligan City, the city government has fielded at least 1,750 civilian volunteers in a bid to boost its anti-drug and anti-crime campaigns.

Mayor Franklin Quijano said the volunteers would be village-based and would help police in intelligence gathering against the drug menace and other misdemeanor.

Quijano said there was a chance the city's campaign to address the alarming drug problem, which has been linked to a sharp increase in the city's crime rate, to succeed because the volunteers operate in their own places. *PDI Mindanao Bureau with a report from Jeffrey Maningo*

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Give criminals chance to reform, Capalla says

DAVAO CITY—Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla yesterday said criminals deserved to be punished but that they should be given a chance to reform.

Capalla said the sin should be condemned and not the sinner who is "still capable of change and transformation."

Capalla, who was recently elected president of the influential Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), issued the statement in reaction to the series of summary executions of suspected criminals, notably drug pushers.

The prelate broke his silence as the so-called Davao Death Squad (DDS), which has been linked to Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, claimed its 18th victim on Thursday.

An unidentified gunman shot to death 20-year-old Wilson Mahalon, a suspected robber, inside the SM Village in Barangay Bangkal in Talomo District.

Witnesses said the suspect chased Mahalon, when the victim tried to run for his safety.

SPO2 Joven Victoriano, investigator at the Talomo police, said nobody was able to identify the suspect.

Capalla said the Catholic Church was partly to be blamed for the series of killings.

He said the Church has apparently failed to educate the people against committing crimes.

Capalla said because of this, the clergy would work hard to inculcate morality in the minds of the people.

At the same time, the prelate enjoined the "silent majority" to come out in the open and speak up against the senseless killings of suspected felons in the city.

Capalla believes that majority of the people condemned the executions but they were just afraid to express their sentiments.

In an obvious support to theories that the killings were government-initiated, Capalla urged authorities to undertake "a humane and civil campaign against criminals and lawless elements."

Capalla said he was to meet with Duterte, Task Force Davao commander Col. Gaudencio Pangilinan, and city police director Sr. Supt. Conrado Laza, "to thresh out workable mechanisms in putting a stop to the killings."

"We will talk (about) this privately. Preferably, I'll be advocating moral law in our meeting," he told reporters here.

Duterte has repeatedly denied involvement in the killings saying although he detests crime, he believes criminals should be prosecuted, not executed.

He even ordered the police to unmask the group behind the killings, which he said, involved people who wanted to end the drug menace in the shortest way possible.

Suspicions about Duterte's involvement in the activities of the DDS were bolstered by the executive's recent pronouncements.

On one occasion, he said he has no tears for fallen criminals. Duterte said pushers and other felons should get out of the city if they would not reform. *Anthony Allada with a report from Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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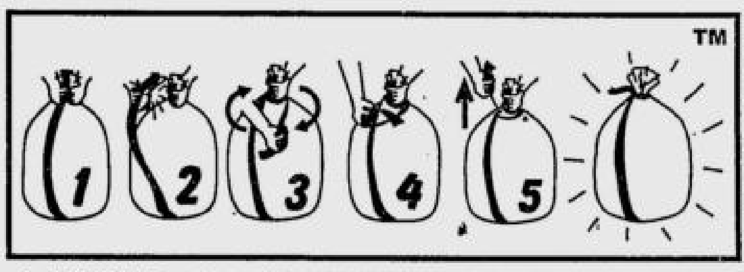

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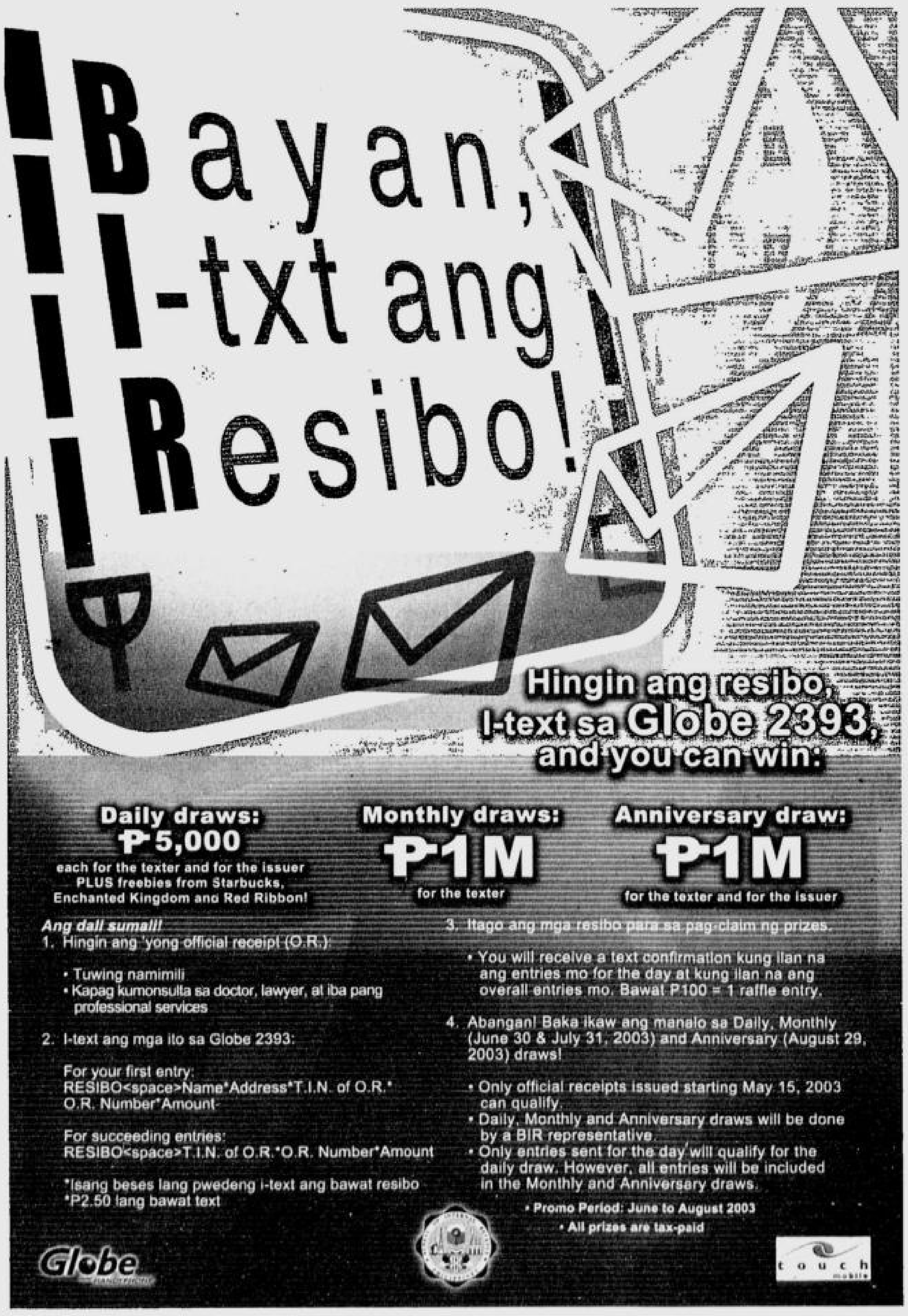

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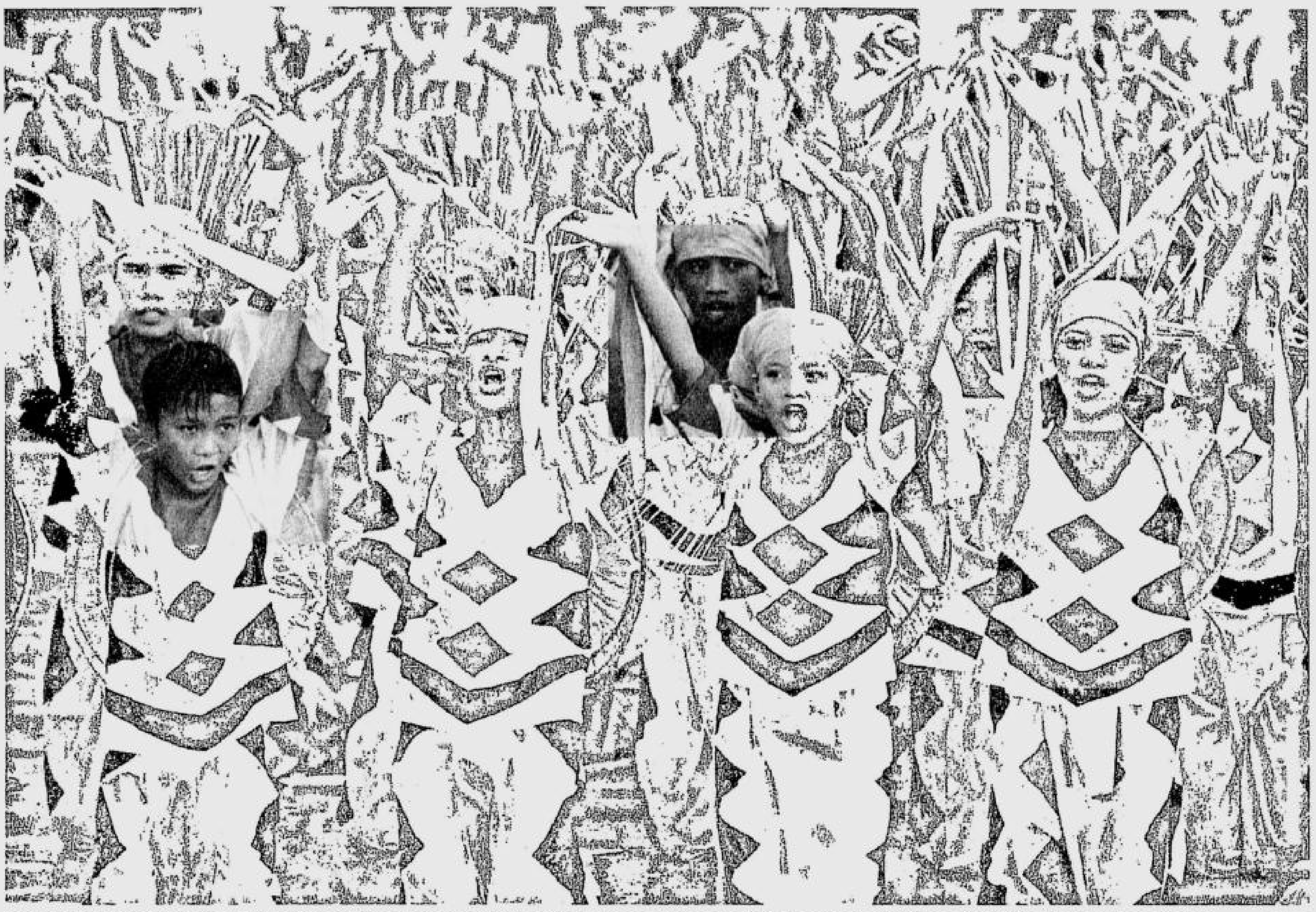


SCHOOLCHILDREN wear colorful native costumes as they perform during a dance-drama parade in the streets of Tacloban city during the Kasadyaan festival. REUTERS

2 days of Waray super-festivals

By Vicente S. Labro
Tacloban City

TACLOBAN City reverberated for two straight days in late June as tourists, visitors and residents were treated to terrific street dancing and magical dance rituals.

Held on June 28 was the First Ibabao-Tandaya Regional Festival of Festivals that pitted against each other the different dance groups in the region.

The next day, the Pintados groups in Tacloban and a dozen Kasadyaan dance troupes from different Leyte towns joined in the Pintados-Kasadyaan Festival of Festivals.

Dances were performed, featuring folklore, local history, legend and the people's way of life, among other subjects.

Most participants wore colorful costumes; others only G-strings, with their bodies "tattooed" like the Pintados.

The festivities were held in honor of the Senior Santo Niño, patron saint of Tacloban and Leyte, whose 114th feast day falls on June 30.

The Holy Child is also revered by other Warays, as the people in the region are commonly called.

Ibabao and Tandaya are the ancient names of Samar and Leyte, the main islands of what is now known as Eastern Visayas.

Pintados, which means painted people, refers to the early inhabitants of Leyte and Samar, who had tattoos on their bodies. Kasadyaan is a Visayan word which means merry-making and gaiety.

Festivities

People gathered to watch the two-day spectacle held at the Remedios Trinidad Romualdez Plaza in the heart of the city.

THEIR bodies and faces painted like the Pintados, these young performers carry crab traps, locally known as *taklub*, during the parade.

The event was graced by some members of the diplomatic corps, among other guests.

Gov. Remedios L. Petilla, chair of the Eastern Visayas Regional Tourism Council (EVRTC), spearheaded the big event, with the support of provincial and municipal officials in the region, the Pintados Foundation Inc. and other groups and individuals.

The events were also among the highlights of the governor's "Visit Leyte 2003" program, which aims to lure foreign and domestic visitors to the province.

The heavy downpour in the afternoon of June 28 did not dampen the spirits of the performers vying in the Ibabao-Tandaya Festival of Festivals competition. All got wet during the "*pagrayhak* (rejoice)" parade around the city.

When the sky cleared, the din of drums filled the air as the contest immediately started. Pandemonium then seemed to have broken loose.

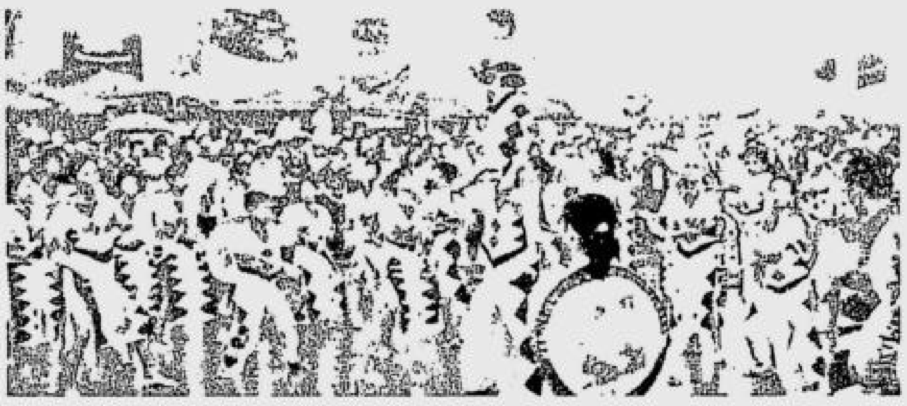
The Calbiga dance troupe, who performed the Pahoy-Pahoy Festival (Scarecrow Festival), thrilled the crowd as they gyrated, flapped their arms and stomped their feet to the frenetic beat of the drums.

They went on to win the first prize of the Ibabao-Tandaya Regional Festival of Festivals. The Tolo-usa Festival of Tolosa won the second prize and the Sinulog dancers of Ormoc City won the third.

Financial difficulties

The award-winning Sarakiki-Hadang Festival also showed its fast-paced dance number that day, as a guest performer.

Sarakiki is a term that denotes the movement of a rooster, while Hadang is an ethnic ritual performed in Calbayog.



THE PAHOY-PAHOY Festival (Scarecrow Festival) of Calgiga, Samar is adjudged first prize winner of this year's Ibabao-Tandaya Festival in Tacloban City. VICENTE S. LABRO

THESE women dance as they depict the way of life of early Leyteños. They belong to one of the groups participating in the Kasadyaan Festival of Festivals held on June 29 in Tacloban City. The event is among the highlights of the 114th fiesta celebration of the city, in honor of the Miraculous Sto. Niño. VICENTE S. LABRO

Due to time and financial constraints, other dance groups on Samar Island were unable to join the maiden presentation of the Ibabao-Tandaya Festival of Festivals. These were the Embajada of Catarman, Northern Samar; Pagdul-ong of Borongan, Eastern Samar; and Mangirisda of Catbalogan, Samar.

But a dozen festival groups from Leyte joined in the Kasadyaan Festival.

These were the Lingganay Festival of Alangalang, Pasaka Festival of Tanauan, Palo-Paloan Festival of Palo, Tambula Festival of Babatngon, Pamilipig Festival of Sta. Fe, Kan-angga Festival of Kananga, Viajedores Festival of La Paz, Binaybay Festival of Baybay, El Triunfo de la Sta. Cruz Festival of Carigara, Karukatik Festival of Burauen, Mag-uuma Festival of Merida and the Tolo-usa Festival of Tolosa.

Still, there were some festivals from Leyte who failed to join in, including the Hulatan Festival of Julita, Leyte, last year's champion.

Winners

Grand prize winner of the Kasadyaan Festival of Festivals was the Tribung Bagong Silang of Palo, Leyte.

They performed the Palo-Paloan Festival, which depicted the lives of the early settlers of Palo. Their dance was about an incident wherein a bad spirit tried to destroy the people and the Palon-ons were able to ward it off.

The group received a cash prize of P70,000 plus a trophy and plaque.

Other winners were the Karukatik Festival (second), Pamilipig Festival (third), Mag-uuma Festival (fourth) and the Tambula Festival (fifth).

In the Pintados Festival open or school category, declared champion were the performers from Leyte National High School. Marasbaras National High School and San Jose National High School bagged the second and third prizes, respectively

The group called Kanhuraw Karibhungan of Area 5 copped first prize in the barangay category of the Pintados Festival contest, followed by the Sinirangan Pintados of Area 2 and Kasiroman Pintados of Area 3.

Prime destination

The two-day festivities showed that Eastern Visayas was emerging as a place to go for its many festivals.

With Petilla at the helm, the EVRTC has been making extra efforts to promote the region as tourist destination. In fact, the region has won the best in destination booth award several times already during national tourism fairs held in Metro Manila.

The booth of Eastern Visayas, aside from its beautiful design, usually features photographs of the beautiful places found in the region.

With the huge success of the two festivals, Eastern Visayas has made its mark as a region, not only rich in natural resources but also culture and history.

A GIRL holds a statue of the Christian patron saint Sto Niño in Tacloban city during the Kasadyaan festival. REUTERS

Alien offenders

BREAKAWAY

Ivan Suansing

IS CEBU becoming a paradise island for international criminals?

Just recently, National Bureau of Investigation and immigration agents stopped George Steen, a fugitive from British justice, while he was cruising in a BMW in Lapu-lapu City.

Steen is wanted in the United Kingdom for a string of large-scale fraud cases. He is charged with defrauding dozens of his countrymen of millions of pounds through a lending racket that made borrowers lose their last money.

After posting bail in 1997, Steen then disappeared from the UK and settled down in faraway Cebu, which, with the help of his local contacts, he made as his second home.

When Steen was arrested two weeks ago, he had built two mansions worth P20 million apiece, purchased a beach resort, and to firm up his cover, shacked up with a Cebuana lass.

He also had at least $3 million in a local bank, according to the NBI. But that's probably loose change as the British con artist reportedly stashed 70 percent of his loot in the country.

The NBI is asking the anti-money laundering council of the Central Bank to freeze Steen's accounts. The Briton stands to lose all his pieces of property in the Philippines if it is shown they were acquired with dirty money.

Authorities are hunting down Steen's cohorts and protectors in Cebu, including four government officials who harbored him and facilitated his banking transactions.

On a stakeout, NBI operatives said they once saw Steen enter a police camp. Did he drop by to say hello to a couple of friends? A chief inspector and a superintendent are allegedly among the slippery Briton's protectors.

Has protecting international fugitives become a lucrative racket?

Another veteran police investigator is facing the axe for brokering a settlement for another alien, a Korean who had allegedly molested at least 12 minors since setting foot on these shores.

According to the victims' parents, the police officer offered them from P20,000 to P25,000 to drop their sexual abuse complaints against Jong Keun Lee.

Immigration officials want to prevent Lee from leaving, but which Lee? Their record shows no less than 10 Koreans with the same name in the country.

The most notorious of the lot, however, remains Perry McNeely, the American who allegedly got his kicks watching Cebuana girls do obscene things to themselves before doing obscene things to them.

Managing a taxi company in between his alleged mail-order bride business and pornographic hobby, McNeely was soon swamped with criminal cases, a fate he blamed on the machinations of "jealous" American expats.

With money to burn and the help of high-caliber lawyers who exploited holes in the prosecution, McNeely made sure none of his cases prospered. He even became a "legit" boxing promoter, and through PR experts soon appeared more a victim and a sportsman than a pervert.

Unfortunately for McNeely, but fortunately for his future victims, the militant group Gabriela dug up his dark past in America and petitioned the Bureau of Immigration to deport him as an undesirable alien.

***

MEGADOME. Gov. Pablo Garcia wants to leave politics with a blast.

After decades in public service, he, however, can't think of anything for the public to remember him by. That's apparently how Cebu's foremost constitutionalist was inspired to build a monument to his greatness, a P250-million "megadome" to end all domes.

Garcia brushes aside criticisms that the megadome, which can seat at least 25,000 people, will be a waste of public funds unless he plans to buy the Miss Universe franchise, saying these are just his political rivals' ramblings.

He insists Capitol has "excess cash" to fund the project, which his critics fear will be a source of kickbacks and election funds for the governor's anointed candidates.

He has shown no qualms about spending that much for a massive building, when poor Cebuano students don't even have enough classrooms.

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Sleepless sweatshops warned they'll be treated as drug pushers

From page A1

from P500,000 to P10,000,000.

Ms Macapagal ordered the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency to work with the Department of Labor and Employment "to monitor these unsavory practices and stop them."

On Wednesday, the President instructed Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas to investigate Anvil Ensembles, a garment factory in Taytay, Rizal, said to use drugs to keep its workers working for three days straight.

"Look into that. You know, I came from GTEB so we cannot allow this thing to continue," Sto. Tomas quoted the President as saying.

Ms Macapagal headed the Garments and Textile Export Board of the Department of Trade and Industry before running for the Senate.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the President was dismayed when she read last week's INQUIRER report about substandard wages and working conditions at Anvil, which makes baby clothes for leading American companies.

Bunye said the President had instructed Sto. Tomas to investigate and sanction the erring factory.

"Our President was once undersecretary of DTI and the (GTEB) was under her supervision. So it is very important for her that garment factories, especially the exporters, should be socially compliant," Bunye said in an interview with the state-run dzRB.

The Confederation of Garments Exporters of the Philippines also put part of the burden of ridding the garment industry of sweatshops on the government. Chair Donald Dee said the Philippine garment industry could avert a backlash from international buyers as long as the government and industry undertake concrete measures to discover and penalize labor code transgressors among apparel makers. *(See related story on Page A12.)*

Audit teams

One of the measures being eyed by the government and industry was the deployment of special auditing teams that would make surprise inspections of garment factories in the country. The Employers Confederation of the Philippines has sent 13 individuals to undergo seminars sponsored by the International Labor Organization for corporate social responsibility and Dee said they would be included in the audit teams.

According to Dominador Tuvera, assistant director of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines' anti-sweatshop project, the number of sweatshops in the country has risen from 202 in 2001 to 254 last year.

The numbers, he said, was based on a random survey they conducted earlier.

Dee said that international buyers—which are averse to buying from sweatshop factories—were "closely watching" how the government and the industry would address the problem.

Dee noted that the local garment industry signed a responsible apparel-manufacturing compact with international buyers in 1999 to maintain world-class labor standards in factories here. "But I cannot guarantee that everybody in our industry is complying, especially since there are about 800 small garment factories in the country," Dee said.

Sto. Tomas struck the same pessimistic note, admitting that it would be hard to promise that the Anvil case would not be repeated.

"It's probably hard to say that this won't happen again, because, you know, lack of compliance with labor standards is not just simply a matter of enforcement, it's also a matter of capability," Sto. Tomas said in a mix of Filipino and English.

In Congress, Partido ng Manggagawa party-list Rep. Renato Magtubo asked Ms Macapagal to certify pro-labor reform bills as priority and urgent measures when she delivers her State of the Nation Address on July 28.

"The Anvil exposé is the embodiment of the state of the working class. Hence, we demand that the coming Sona should contain solutions to the problems of the ordinary working family," Magtubo said.

Magtubo suggested that the President direct the enactment of bills that would criminalize violations of the labor code, deputize union presidents and officers as DOLE inspectors and foster an enabling law to implement the "living wage" provision of the Constitution.

Accreditation revoked

Meanwhile, the GTEB has revoked the accreditation of Anvil, barring the controversial company from taking orders for products that fall under the "critical" category. This includes major garments such as pants, T-shirts and jackets, said Ismael Cordon, assistant chief of GTEB's auditing and inspection division.

Cordon said with the revocation of Anvil's compliance certificate, the company would again have to undergo the long process of inspection by the government agency if it wishes to regain its accreditation. He said the inspection process involves extensive investigation of all aspects of its business operations, including work environment and provision of proper employee benefits, among others.

GTEB Executive Director Serafin Juliano also said the government agency has placed the garment firm on its watch list.

Juliano said the imposition of the penalties was made following an audit inspection on Anvil conducted by a team composed of representatives of auditing firm SGV & Co., Intertek Testing Services and the GTEB.

The inspection, said Juliano, led to the conclusion that majority of Anvil's workers are paid below the minimum wage and are not provided standard employee benefits, such as Philhealth, Social Security System and Pag-Ibig services.

Anvil's most recent re-accreditation was issued in July last year, and was supposed to be valid until Dec. 31 of this year.

A letter from Juliano to Anvil chair Margie Lazo read in part: "It was established that fraudulent documents, i.e. payroll and remittances to SSS, Philhealth and Pag-Ibig showing compliance with the standards, were presented and submitted to the audit team that conducted the audit in July 2002 when the renewal of your accreditation was being processed."

In Makati City, members of the Kilusang Mayo Uno picketed Ecop offices.

"We challenge Ecop and Mr. Dee to come out with a list of its members complying with labor standards," KMU secretary general Joel Maglunsod said in a statement.

Sto. Tomas said the Anvil case could be avoided if workers continue to be vigilant. She said workers who feel oppressed could file their complaints either through anonymous letters, e-mail or fax.

"We inspect on that basis," she said. ***With reports from Michelle Remo, Martin Marfil, Margaux Ortiz***

You think we're stupid? Erap lawyer irks court

From page A1

"Let the Sandiganbayan include in the decision that the Supreme Court [justices] went to the Edsa Shrine and Chief Justice (Hilario) Davide actually administered the oath to Vice President Macapagal-Arroyo," said Paguia.

He drew this rebuke from Nazario: "You want us to include in our decision the fact that the justices of the Supreme Court went to the Edsa Shrine, and still junk your resolution? For what? *Ano kami, gago* [Do you think we're that stupid]?"

Risking contempt

Paguia said the other day that if he is rebuffed again, he would take the motion to the Supreme Court where he risks a contempt action as the SC has warned him not to bring the issue before it again.

Told by the Sandiganbayan justices that the high court would not entertain the motion, Paguia said: "I will pray instead, your honor."

"In our Constitution, we recognized Almighty God. I believe there is a higher court than the Supreme Court," he said.

The chief special prosecutor, Dennis Villa-Ignacio, told the court that what the defense was asking for was a propaganda tool for Estrada.

"This is a matter that is immaterial, impertinent and irrelevant ... All the defense wants is for the court to recognize what transpired at Edsa II in its decision," Villa-Ignacio said.

"That is no longer necessary since what happened at Edsa II is on judicial notice. The public knows that. It doesn't need to be put into the decision of the court," he said.

No defense evidence

Whatever the Sandiganbayan decides on the motion, Estrada yesterday said he would not be calling any defense witnesses to rebut the prosecution's 76 witnesses, even if he has strong evidence in his favor, preferring to leave his fate to God and the Filipino people.

"I've lost trust and confidence in the judicial system ... I choose to be consistent. We would not present defense evidence because I do not believe this court has jurisdiction over my case," Estrada told reporters as he was escorted under heavy guard from the Veterans Memorial Medical Center to the Sandiganbayan. About 100 of his supporters rallied outside the courthouse.

"Sovereignty resides in the people and all authority emanates from them, so I will just bring my case to the people," he added.

Asked by reporters if he still had any options, Estrada replied: "I still have hope: the masses. I will appeal to the masses if I cannot get justice from the Supreme Court."

He said the number of anti-administration protesters "will multiply someday. They are now realizing ... they are feeling the pressure, the hunger, the hopelessness, the helplessness."

"Do not oppress the poor," he warned authorities, adding his lawyers would file charges against the police if his followers are arrested.

"We will exhaust all legal remedies. If legal measures are not enough, then it is up to the masses," he said, without elaborating.

'Political solution'

Paguia indicated in an earlier interview that the defense was moving toward such a political solution, saying that if Estrada were to fail to win the legal battle, he would be left with no recourse but to take his case to the people.

He said Estrada's supporters, including some lawyers' groups, have been going to the barangays to explain the case to his lumpen constituency. He said this was why Estrada's lawyers drafted their recent motion in Filipino.

Although past hearings in the case were conducted in English, yesterday's session was in Filipino, the national language, at Estrada's request. ***With reports from AP, AFP***

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Danding loses UCPB shares to gov't, farmers

From page A1

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The high court directed the Sandiganbayan to decide the cases early this year.

The peso value of the ruling was unknown, but observers said the decision could have a potential impact on Cojuangco's management control of San Miguel Corp., the food and beverage conglomerate that is one of the country's largest companies.

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It alleges that Cojuangco had illegally acquired the shares by illegally using proceeds of the coconut levy fund.

Both the Marcos estate and Cojuangco, an alleged crony of the dictator, deny the charge.

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The shares, constituting 64.98 percent of the UCPB shares of stock and which formed part of the. sequestered 72.2 percent shares, were also declared "conclusively owned" by the government.

The court said Section 1 of PD 755 was unconstitutional for "having allowed the CCSF to benefit directly private interests by the outright and unconditional grant of absolute ownership of the FUB/UCPB shares ... to the undefined 'coconut farmers'."

The division's other justices, Associate Justices Diosdado Peralta and Fransco Villaruz Jr., concurred with the decision.

The UCPB case forms part of Civil Case 33 pertaining to the coco levy funds that has been pending before the Sandiganbayan since 1987.

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'Peace talks off if MILF behind blast'

From page A1

Sayyaf officer, claiming responsibility for the blast about 30 minutes after it went off.

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But officials played down the claim, recalling that Sulaiman had made similar claims previously to back up extortion demands.

MILF suspected

But police and military commanders said they suspected the MILF was behind the bombing, which occurred as the city was preparing to join the South Cotabato provincial anniversary.

"We have traces of the MILF in this latest terror attacks," said Chief Supt. Manuel Raval, Central Mindanao police regional director.

Raval said the latest blast had "the same pattern, the same operation, the same targets" as previous bomb attacks blamed on the MILF.

Maj. Gen. Generoso Senga, commander of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said the MILF remains the principal suspect based on the manner and the make of explosives used.

An improvised explosive device similar to the ones used in the Davao bombings allegedly caused Thursday's blast here.

Authorities also blamed the MILF for the said incidents.

In Camp Aguinaldo, a spokesperson told reporters the Armed Forces had not ruled out any suspects yet.

"We're still investigating everything, what I mean is we are not discounting the possibility of the involvement of the MILF and the Abu Sayyaf," Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, Armed Forces public information chief, said.

Raval said the police were hunting suspects—including three teenagers that witnesses saw rushing from the market shortly before the explosion on Thursday afternoon.

MILF denial

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Kabalu said instead of pointing an accusing finger, the military and the police should start a real investigation to determine who were really behind the series of explosions in Koronadal and other parts of Mindanao.

"We want the matter to be thoroughly investigated. We requested the Malaysian monitoring team to be dispatched immediately and this will become their test mission," Kabalu said.

"Why not dispatch it immediately so it could conduct a fair and just investigation? Everybody is bent on pinning the blame on us. We have nothing to gain from that attack. We're not engaged in such acts," he said in a phone interview.

The charges linking the group to the attack, he said, were aimed at sabotaging efforts to restart talks between the government and the MILF.

Brig. Gen. Agustin Dema-ala, commander of the Army's 301st Infantry Brigade based in Sultan Kudarat, said the involvement of the extremist Abu Sayyaf was not remote.

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Earlier, Lucero had also theorized that the blast was a diversionary tactic.

The military has long suspected that the MILF and the Abu Sayyaf have close ties, accusing one of providing sanctuary to the other group's members when they come under hot military pursuit.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina later said the suspects are believed hiding in "sanctuaries" of the MILF but he did not say if they were linked to the rebels.

During her visit, Ms Macapagal called on Christians and Muslims in Koronadal to unite and help in the government's effort to stamp out terrorism.

The President, accompanied by some of her Cabinet secretaries, went to see the victims of the explosion. She gave P10,000 to each of the injured victims, while she handed P20,000 each to the families of those who perished in the bomb attack. *With reports from Edwin O. Fernandez and Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Reuters, AP, AFP; and TJ Burgonio and Christian V. Esguerra*

Oops, 'Precious'...

From page A1

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'Reenactment'

The INQUIRER learned that the photo was in fact a "reenactment" of Ms Soliven's appointment as secretary general of the Unesco's National Commission of the Philippines in October 2001.

Cawaling explained that he put the caption because he heard Max Soliven "pronounced" that he was hosting the party because his wife was appointed "envoy" to Canada. The dinner party, which the President attended last Wednesday, was hosted by the Star and Stargate Media Corp. for Foreign Secretary Blas Ople and outgoing Canadian Ambassador Robert Collete at the Tower Club in Makati.

Nagging question

The PCPO error raises the question that has long been begging to be asked. Should the PCPO be allowed to operate independently of the Office of the Press Secretary (OPS)?

The PCPO consists of five longtime photographers of Ms Macapagal and her husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo.

Gerry Carual, the First Couple's personal photographer, is PCPO's chief photographer and head at the same time. But Carual said that it was not exactly acting independently as it submits monthly reports to OPS.

Aside from Carual and Cawaling, the other PCPO photographers are Julius Reyes, Mark Peñaranda and Patrick Castillo.

Carual, who came in when Ms Macapagal became President in 2001, reportedly formed the PCPO after his removal was petitioned by the Malacañang photo, the official and regular section of the OPS that covers the President's official functions and releases photographs to local and foreign publications.

Malacañang insiders said the staffers of the Malacañang photo section wanted Carual out based on some complaints, one of which was that Carual reportedly filed a libel case against his colleagues.

The OPS designated an acting Malacañang photo head, forcing Carual to leave. He then formed the PCPO and was given an office in Mabini Hall near the OPS office.

No screening

Carual and his fellow PCPO photographers handle the processing of the photos themselves.

Because they are directly under the Office of the President, their photographs do not go through screening by the OPS before the photographs are dispatched to different media outlets.

The photographs taken by the OPS Malacañang photo section go through several layers of screening before being sent out to media outlets. Their photographs are captioned by the Presidential News Desk, which churns out daily official Palace news releases. As a rule, the Palace reporter who covers a specific event writes the caption himself.

OPS sidelined

Sources said the Malacañang photo section was even being sidelined because the President's functions, here and abroad, were being covered by Carual and his PCPO colleagues.

"Malacañang photo is now like a back-up to PCPO when it has all the facilities and the tight procedures in place," a Palace source said.

In the case of the PCPO, it would seem that there's no close supervision over its photographers who cover presidential functions, and are also expected, though they are not reporters, to write the captions to accompany their photos.

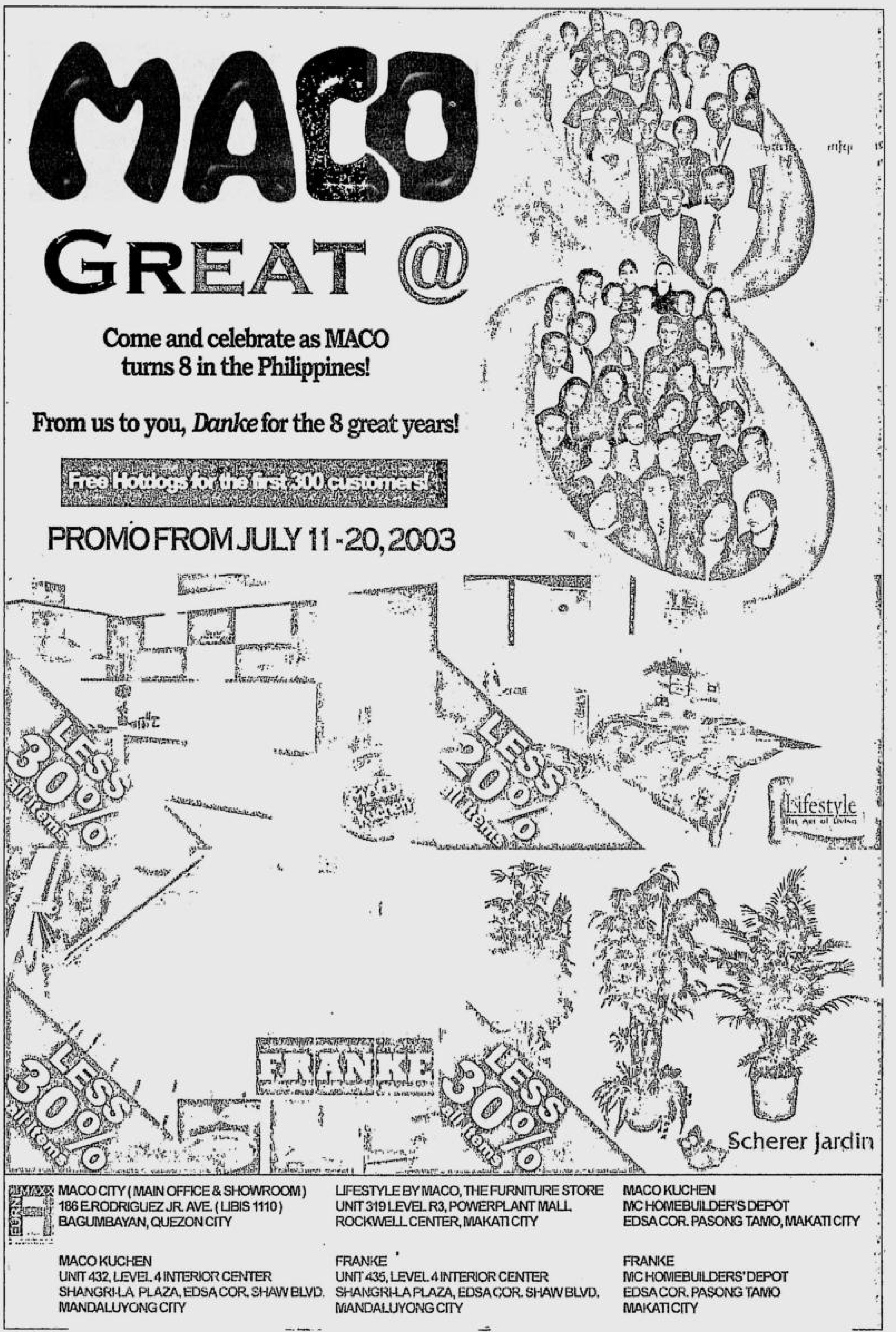
Cawaling said he sought "clearance" from Carual and his colleagues before he sent out the Soliven photo at 4 p.m. Thursday. He took the picture Wednesday night. He said he had called up the Star to get the correct spelling of Ms Soliven's name.

Another error

Cawaling said he showed his photo and caption to Carual and the other photographers before it was sent out by e-mail to newspapers.

Reyes said Cawaling told the PCPO that Ms Soliven had taken her oath as ambassador and that the staff took his word since he had himself covered the event.

The PCPO group also made an erroneous caption for the Jan. 25, 2003 photo of "Rodolfo Salas" supposedly paying a courtesy call on President Macapagal. As it turned out "Salas" was Jerry Acuzar of San Jose Builders who was discussing livelihood projects for rebel returnees with the President.



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Danding loses UCPB shares to gov't, farmers

From page A1

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The government sequestered both the UCPB and the 27-percent SMC share bloc in 1986, shortly after the Edsa people power revolution that toppled the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos from power.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government, set up to recover the allegedly illegally acquired wealth of Marcos and his associates, has been battling Cojuangco for decades in court over the coconut levy funds.

It alleges that Cojuangco had illegally acquired the shares by illegally using proceeds of the coconut levy fund.

Both the Marcos estate and Cojuangco, an alleged crony of the dictator, deny the charge.

The funds, now amounting to P100 billion, were collected from coconut farmers ... a forced tax through a Marcos decree between 1973 to 1982. Marcos appointed Cojuangco as the administrator of the funds.

In yesterday's ruling, the court declared as unconstitutional Marcos' Presidential Decree No. 755 which allowed Cojuangco and Cocofed to use the Coconut Consumer Stabilization Fund (CCSF) to acquire the UCPB, formerly the First United Bank.

The court said PD 775 "did not validate" the May 25, 1975 agreement between Cojuangco and the Philippine Coconut Authority.

The ruling declared null and void the transfer of the shares of stock of FUB (now UCPB) by the PCA to Cojuangco, "which cost the PCA more than P10 million in CCSF in 1975."

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Nagging question

The PCPO error raises the question that has long been begging to be asked. Should the PCPO be allowed to operate independently of the Office of the Press Secretary (OPS)?

The PCPO consists of five longtime photographers of Ms Macapagal and her husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo.

Gerry Carual, the First Couple's personal photographer, is PCPO's chief photographer and head at the same time. But Carual said that it was not exactly acting independently as it submits monthly reports to OPS.

Aside from Carual and Cawaling, the other PCPO photographers are Julius Reyes, Mark Peñaranda and Patrick Castillo.

Carual, who came in when Ms Macapagal became President in 2001, reportedly formed the PCPO after his removal was petitioned by the Malacañang photo, the official and regular section of the OPS that covers the President's official functions and releases photographs to local and foreign publications.

Malacañang insiders said the staffers of the Malacañang photo section wanted Carual out based on some complaints, one of which was that Carual reportedly filed a libel case against his colleagues.

The OPS designated an acting Malacañang photo head, forcing Carual to leave. He then formed the PCPO and was given an office in Mabini Hall near the OPS office.

No screening

Carual and his fellow PCPO photographers handle the processing of the photos themselves.

Because they are directly under the Office of the President, their photographs do not go through screening by the OPS before the photographs are dispatched to different media outlets.

The photographs taken by the OPS Malacañang photo section go through several layers of screening before being sent out to media outlets. Their photographs are captioned by the Presidential News Desk, which churns out daily official Palace news releases. As a rule, the Palace reporter who covers a specific event writes the caption himself.

OPS sidelined

Sources said the Malacañang photo section was even being sidelined because the President's functions, here and abroad, were being covered by Carual and his PCPO colleagues.

"Malacañang photo is now like a back-up to PCPO when it has all the facilities and the tight procedures in place," a Palace source said.

In the case of the PCPO, it would seem that there's no close supervision over its photographers who cover presidential functions, and are also expected, though they are not reporters, to write the captions to accompany their photos.

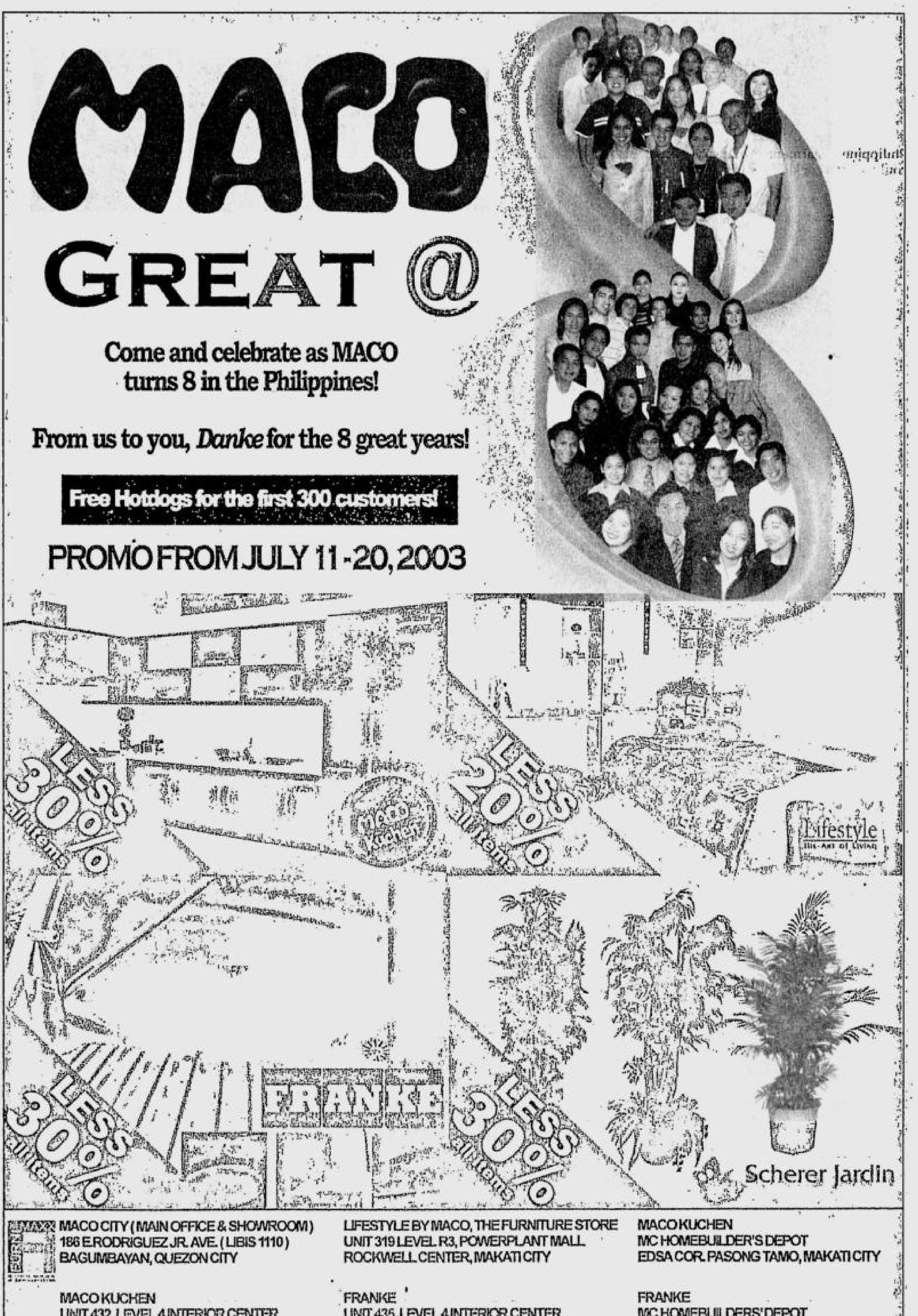
Cawaling said he sought "clearance" from Carual and his colleagues before he sent out the Soliven photo at 4 p.m. Thursday. He took the picture Wednesday night. He said he had called up the Star to get the correct spelling of Ms Soliven's name.

Another error

Cawaling said he showed his photo and caption to Carual and the other photographers before it was sent out by e-mail to newspapers.

Reyes said Cawaling told the PCPO that Ms Soliven had taken her oath as ambassador and that the staff took his word since he had himself covered the event.

The PCPO group also made an erroneous caption for the Jan. 25, 2003 photo of "Rodolfo Salas" supposedly paying a courtesy call on President Macapagal. As it turned out "Salas" was Jerry Acuzar of San Jose Builders who was discussing livelihood projects for rebel returnees with the President.



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Dumaguete nights continue to sizzle

From page A1

into a "lewd" show prompting two judges—a vice governor and a beauty queen—to walk out in disgust.

The controversy comes at a time when the city is still reeling from embarrassment over the proliferation of videotapes of sexual trysts involving three local women and their boyfriends.

Negros Oriental Vice Gov. Jose Baldado, chair of the board of judges, told reporters that he left the contest because it appeared to be turning into a "floor show," referring to sexy dance numbers normally seen in girlie bars.

Leana Basmayor, Ms Dumaguete 2002, said she walked out because she found the contest vulgar.

She said the participants wore T-shirts without bras and teeny-weeny underwear just enough to cover their private parts.

She said she felt she had had enough when the girls, who were in their early 20s, became "wild" and performed "sexually suggestive" dances.

She said one of the girls even placed a bottle of beer inside her panty while gyrating her body.

"I made the choice to walk out because I could not possibly associate (with) such vulgarity and exploitation of girls and just sit there and be expected to support it. I guess it's not right," Basmayor said.

She said she did not expect the show to turn out that way because she had also sat as a judge in a similar contest that she said was not offensive.

The City Council designated the committee on women and family life chaired by Councilor Myrish C. Antonio to conduct the inquiry "in aid of legislation."

Inquiry

The investigation stemmed from the resolution passed by the City Council during its regular session on Thursday. Councilor Karissa Faye Tolentino, Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Federation chair who authored the resolution, said she called for an inquiry because she felt scandalized by the report that the bikini open contest became an indecent show.

The contest was held on June 21 at El Camino Park, which is partly owned by Councilor Manuel "Chiquiting" Sagarbarria.

Sagarbarria said the place was rented by the "Ang Blvd Group," referring to the operators of the karaoke bar Ang Blvd here.

He said he heard that the contestants were mostly from Cebu.

Sagarbarria said his business partners did not hesitate to rent out the place to the organizers because everything went fine in four or five similar contests held there previously.

Besides, he said, the presence of Baldado and Basmayor as judges lent credibility to the activity.

Sagarbarria, however, apparently did not agree with the observation that the contest was lewd. Still, he said the management of El Camino would make sure that a similar incident would not happen again.

Vice Mayor William Ablong said that if he had his way, he would ban similar activities here because they are not only "immoral" but they also don't suit the image of Dumaguete as a university city.

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High court . . .

From page A1

abroad" to register and vote.

The SC said this is an "exception" to the residency requirement. It noted that the Constitution's framers intended to enfranchise as much as possible all Filipino citizens abroad who have not abandoned their domicile of origin.

"Contrary to petitioner's claim that (the absentee voting law) circumvents the Constitution, Congress enacted the law prescribing a system of overseas absentee voting in compliance with the constitutional mandate. Such mandate expressly requires that Congress provide a system of absentee voting that necessarily presupposes that the 'qualified citizen of the Philippines abroad' is not physically present in the country," the decision, written by Associate Justice Ma. Alicia Austria Martinez, read.

"With the advent of the Overseas Absentee Voting Act, (an immigrant) may still be considered as a 'qualified citizen of the Philippines abroad' upon fulfillment of the requirements of registration under the new law for the purpose of exercising their right of suffrage," the court added.

Under the new law, a Filipino immigrant or a permanent resident of another country is disqualified from voting unless he executes an affidavit declaring that he "will resume actual physical permanent residence in the Philippines not later than three years" from approval of his registration.

It also states that the Filipino voter abroad should be at least 18 years old, not otherwise disqualified by law, should not have relinquished Philippine citizenship and should not have abandoned his intention to return to the Philippines.

"The qualified Filipino abroad who executed the affidavit is deemed to have retained his domicile in the Philippines. He is presumed not to have lost his domicile by his physical absence from this country. His having become an immigrant or permanent resident of his host country does not necessarily imply an abandonment of his intention to return to his domicile of origin, the Philippines," the court said.

"Therefore, under the law, he must be given the opportunity to express that he has not actually abandoned his domicile in the Philippines by executing the affidavit," the court added.

Not enabling

It also said that the execution of the affidavit "itself is not the enabling or enfranchising act."

"The affidavit is not only proof of the intention of the immigrant or permanent resident to go back and resume residency in the Philippines, but more significantly, it serves as an explicit expression that he had not in fact abandoned his domicile of origin. Thus it is not correct to say that the execution of the affidavit violates the Constitution (which) proscribes provisional registration or a promise by a voter to perform a condition to be qualified to vote in a political exercise," the high tribunal said.

"To repeat, the affidavit is required of immigrants and permanent residents abroad because by their status in their host countries, they are presumed to have relinquished their intent to return to this country; thus, without the affidavit, the presumption of abandonment of the Philippine domicile shall remain."

The SC noted that the affidavit should also state that the overseas voter has not applied for citizenship in another country.

"Thus, they must return to the Philippines; otherwise, their failure to return 'shall be cause for the removal' of their names 'from the National Registry of Absentee Voters and his/her permanent disqualification to vote in absentia," the court said.

The court said that the threat of "perpetual" disenfranchisement would suffice as a deterrent for those thinking on reneging on their promise to return.

But it said that the votes of those who reneged on their promise will not be invalidated because "they were qualified to vote on the date of the elections."

Nine justices voted in favor of the decision allowing the registration of Filipino immigrants abroad; four justices dissented. Associate Justice Leonardo Quisumbing is on leave while the newest member of the court, Associate Justice Dante O. Tinga, did not take any part in the deliberations.

Congressional oversight

But the court, by a vote of 13-0, agreed with Macalintal that the portions of the absentee voting law that gave a Joint Congressional Oversight Committee the right to approve and change the law's implementing rules and regulations that the Comelec created were unconstitutional.

The court struck down these parts since they violated the independence of the Comelec.

It adopted the dissenting opinion of Associate Justice Reynato Puno who opined that these provisions restricted the Comelec's constitutional domain to promulgate rules and regulations and that they invaded Comelec's exclusive "constitutional domain to enforce and administer all elections laws.

Also by a 13-0 vote, the court clarified that when the absentee voting law said that the Comelec "is empowered to order the proclamation of winning candidates," the scope of responsibility does not include the winners in the race for the Presidency and the Vice Presidency.

The court said that only Congress can canvass the votes and proclaim the winners for President and Vice President.

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METRO

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Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

After colorum buses, DOTC trains guns on jeepneys

By Gil Cabacungan and Abigail Ho

AFTER bumping illegal and battered buses off Edsa, the Department of Transportation and Communication will now take on colorum and smoke-belching jeepneys in Metro Manila and other urban centers nationwide.

In a press briefing, DOTC Undersecretary Arturo Valdez said the government was aiming to cut by half the 65,000 jeepneys in the country.

Valdez said the government would conduct public consultation similar to that of the Bus Rationalization Program in order to gain support from jeepney drivers and operators.

"We expect the support of legitimate operators because they know that their profits will rise by taking out the colorum jeepneys, just like the legitimate bus operators whose income have increased by 200 percent," Valdez said.

The DOTC, through the Land Transport Franchising and Regulatory Board, will conduct a route-by-route inventory of jeepneys to determine whether these have a franchise and comply with smoke emission standards.

Meanwhile, Valdez announced the success of the DOTC's franchise rationalization program, which has resulted in less traffic along major thoroughfares and less vehicle smoke for Metro Manila commuters to inhale.

With the program, the number of buses plying Metro Manila roads has been effectively cut down to 2,700 from 10,000.

Considering the effect of the unified vehicular volume reduction program, which slashes 40 percent of buses that operated per day, Valdez said only about 1,800 buses actually plied the various Metro Manila routes daily.

The LTFRB would no longer grant new bus franchises but new routes would be eyed for potential new players.

Man claiming to be mayor whoops it up in FHM show

HE WAS arrogant, grouchy and mean. And everybody at the party of the For Him Magazine's 100 sexiest women thought that he was Taguig Mayor Freddie Tinga.

But was he?

"No," said the real Mayor Freddie Tinga who opted to play basketball that night than ogle scantily clad women dancing and walking up and down a ramp at the NBC Tent at The Fort.

Party organizers said the impostor arrived late for the show Wednesday night, introduced himself as the Taguig mayor and demanded that he be let in.

Trouble first started when the man who held a VIP ticket insisted that he be allowed inside since he was the "mayor."

By that time, organizers had stopped the registration and the entry of more guests since the venue was already full.

Showing deference to the "mayor," party organizers showed him in, after which he asked for a table and food.

But later, the "mayor" started complaining that he was not being given the treatment due him.

He then stood up and left but not before threatening the organizers that he would no longer sign permits for future FHM shows in Taguig.

Fearing that they might have offended the mayor, the organizers went to the mayor's office the following day to apologize. It was then that they discovered that they had fallen victims to a prank.

As it turned out, the real Tinga was at the C.P. Tinga Gym playing basketball. His team, the Hagonoy Ducks, was up against the Ususan All-Stars.

"I am thankful that the FHM officials took the effort to check things or else this impostor could have succeeded in painting a bad picture of me," Tinga said.

While FHM usually sends out invitations to Tinga, city chief information officer Ana Santos said Tinga was not into sexy shows. "He'd rather play basketball," Santos said.

And on the night the impostor showed up and ruffled the feathers of FHM party organizers, Tinga was leading his basketball team to victory.

Edson Tandoc

AKO SI MAYOR TINGA!
?

FAKE CLEARANCES
Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya (right) reveals the operation of a syndicate that manufactures and sells fake clearances needed in the application of security guard licenses, and permits to carry firearms outside residence. JOAN BONDOC

City to conduct drug tests in all high schools

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

HERE'S another test students in Muntinlupa City will have to pass.

The city government is planning to conduct random drug testing in all private and public high schools in the city.

City officials also said that they have plans to include drug prevention in student manuals and school curricula.

"We would like to keep students on their toes," Vice Mayor Jo Jayson Alcaraz said. "We would still be conducting random drug tests in the future to discourage (students) from using drugs."

The city government is still formulating the mechanics of the planned drug test, including the budget requirements. But officials assured the plan will push through this year.

The move came a few days after 12 students and one employee of the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Muntinlupa tested positive for drug use.

Alcaraz said PLM was the first university in the country to have conducted drug testing on the entire student population—more than 2,600 in all.

The names of those who tested positive were submitted for confirmatory testing. If they would test positive again, the students would be required to undergo rehabilitation before they could be allowed to go back to school.

But Alcaraz warned that students who would test positive in future random drug tests would not be given the same privilege.

Before classes began in June, all high schools in Barangay Ayala-Alabang undertook drug testing, city chief information officer Tez Valencia said.

A barangay resolution paved the way for the testing, she added.

Barangay officials in Muntinlupa City also agreed to shoulder the rehabilitation expenses of drug dependents in their areas.

The city government is requiring each of the nine barangay units to allocate one percent of its budget to the city's anti-drug drive.

Each barangay gets an average of P20 million a year, Alcaraz said.

Aside from shouldering rehabilitation expenses, the barangay units are also tasked to help in the city's anti-drug campaign by identifying the drug hot spots and pushers in their areas.

On Tuesday, Metro Manila Mayors' League President Lito Atienza announced that local government units in the metropolis would be shouldering the rehabilitation of drug users in their areas.

Anyone who wants to avail of the free rehabilitation program will have to go to the city or municipal mayor and ask for referral before he can be admitted to the Center for the Ultimate Rehabilitation of Drug Dependents in Camp Bagong Diwa, Bicutan, Taguig.

Letter of extortion

On Target
Ramon Tulfo

"SIR: There is pending with this Office for preliminary investigation a report against you for alleged illegal activities affecting the national economy, such as but not limited to, economic sabotage, smuggling, violations of local government code, tax evasion as well as violations of the pertinent provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code, as amended, as per duly received Confidential Information/Complaint together with authenticated corroborative documents and/or evidences [*sic*] that warrant criminal prosecution.

"In order to give you an opportunity to explain your side and before your case will be indorsed for appropriate action, you are hereby requested to appear personally at the Office of the Director, Economic Crime, PCTC, Camp Crame, Quezon City, on Friday [date that the letter recipient is supposed to come] for clarificatory questioning and then there [*sic*] to bring the following:

"1) Schedule of Importation Documents;

"2) Financial Statements for the years 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001;

"3) Registration of Business, SEC, DTI.

"Your pertinent attention on [*sic*] this matter is highly appreciated."

* * *

The above-cited letter was signed by Supt. Jesus Gatchalian, director for economic crime, PCTC (Philippine Center on Transnational Crime).

Supposedly under the Office of the President, PCTC is based in Camp Crame, Quezon City.

PCTC has reportedly sent thousands of similar letter to Chinese and Indian businessmen whose businesses are doing well.

* * *

As you can glean from the tone of the letter, the recipient is given veiled threats of being sent to jail for real or imagined crimes.

If PCTC people had information against the recipient, then why would they not file a criminal case against him in court?

In effect, the PCTC is saying, "Hey, you're earning a lot of money, share some with us!"

In short, what the PCTC is doing is extortion.

* * *

Why doesn't the PCTC leave the investigation of tax evasion and smuggling to the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs?

Are they empowered to subpoena documents of business firms owned by foreigners?

Who gave them such powers?

* * *

A Chinese acquaintance told me some PCTC investigators were able to extort P4 million from him when he answered a summons for him to appear before PCTC.

He said he came across with the amount because he didn't want to go through further harassment.

The Chinese acquaintance is an importer.

* * *

How many other Chinese and Indian businessmen have been shaken down by the PCTC, we will never know.

Most of these businessmen, who are not Filipino citizens, were told they would deported if they were found violating Philippine tax and tariff laws, according to the Chinese acquaintance.

President Macapagal-Arroyo should stop the extortion activities of PCTC because it's destroying her clean image.

The letterhead of the PCTC letter says it's under the Office of the President, and not the Philippine National Police (PNP).

* * *

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) will resort to anything, even the killing of innocent civilians, to achieve its aim of making Mindanao an Islamic state.

Even when peace talks are being negotiated, the MILF continues with its terrorist activities. It bombs crowded places to kill or maim many innocent people.

The bombing of the public market in Koronadal, South Cotabato, is the latest of such terrorism by the MILF.

* * *

MILF's continued intransigence shows that it does not want peace. All it wants is to wreak havoc on the non-Muslim population in Mindanao and other places in the country so the Moros, who are in the minority, can rule over the predominantly Christian Mindanao.

Therefore, the government should talk peace with the MILF, but at the same time deal with it with an iron fist.

An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. That's the language understood by the Moros. To do otherwise is construed as weakness.

Vicencio: We'll pay if the city can afford it

By Tina Santos

MALABON City Mayor Amado Vicencio yesterday denied that he was brushing off the demand of city health workers for pay and benefits, saying the matter was still being studied.

"It's not true that we're neglecting them. In fact, we're putting things in order [so that] in the end it will be beneficial to the majority," Vicencio said.

The embattled mayor explained that the city already referred the matter to the Department of Budget Management to clarify if the city government could comply with the workers' demands.

Vicencio was however quick to add that the local government would only give what it could afford because the city was having financial difficulties.

"They just have to wait. But I assure them that their demands are being considered," Vicencio said.

Last week, the city's 14 health workers filed a complaint before the Office of the President and accusing the mayor of "dishonesty, oppression, misconduct in office and dereliction of duty." They claimed that Vicencio had failed to give them their pay and benefits provided by the law.

The complaint follows hard on the heels of another case where Vicencio was accused of involvement in an allegedly anomalous purchase of a resettlement site for the city's urban poor.

MetroBriefs

Marikina runs for its health ...

ARE you passing by Marikina at 6 a.m. on Sunday? You might want to sweat it out with Mayor Marides Lourdes Fernando, who will be leading some 500 Marikeños in a marathon to promote the city's anti-illegal drugs campaign. "We want to divert the attention of our residents from drugs, and running is a very good diversion," said Marikina information officer Carmelita Lorenzo. The marathon will feature three races: a three-kilometer run for children ages 5 to 7; a five-kilometer and eight-kilometer race for 13 years and above. Participants in the "Takbo Para sa Kalusugan" will converge at the Freedom Park in Barangay Sta. Elena. "If you have nothing important to do on Sunday, please come and run with us," Lorenzo said. *Luige del Puerto*

... As Makati runs after drug suspects

THE POLICE in Makati City have arrested more drug users and drug pushers in the last six months compared to last year. Figures from the Makati Anti-Drug Abuse Council (Madac) show that from January to June this year, 298 persons were arrested for drug related charges. Of these, 157, or 53 percent, are considered pushers while 60, or 20 percent, are classified as both users and pushers. At total, 81, or 27 percent, are tagged as users. The number of apprehensions for the first six months of 2003 is 65 percent more than the same period in 2002. Of the six clusters that Makati was divided into, the most number of arrests, 87, was made in Cluster II composed of barangays Bangkal, San Isidro, San Antonio, Pio del Pilar, La Paz, Palanan and Singkamas. The least number of arrests was made in Cluster I, which is composed of upscale barangays Bel-Air, Magallanes, Urdaneta, Forbes Park, San Lorenzo and Dasmariñas. *Leila B. Salaverria*

Driver killed by cigarette stick

A STICK of cigarette virtually caused the death of a driver in Quezon City the other day. The police said Jimmy Ilaga, 31, of 6 Insurance St., Barangay Sangandaan, Project 8, Quezon City, went out of his house at 9:20 p.m. to buy cigarette from a neighborhood store. Suddenly, members of two rival gangs clashed and caught him in the middle. Investigators said a member of the warring gang men apparently thought that Ilaga was an enemy and stabbed him once in the left side of the body. He was declared dead on arrival at the Quezon City General Hospital. *Alcuin Papa*

Photographic memory proves useful

THE KEEN memory of a photographer was put to good use yesterday after he recognized the three suspects who ran off with his valuables in Makati City three months ago. Rey Lobate, 30, of Parang, Marikina, said the trio forced him into giving up his wedding ring, a thumb ring, a Sony Discman, Nokia 3210 cellphone and P300 as he was walking at the corner of Ayala and Makati Avenues in April. Yesterday, at about 9:00 a.m., Lobate saw the suspects in front of Park Square I at the Ayala Center and asked the help of Security Guard Joel Cardenas Camposano to catch them. They collared two of the suspects who identified themselves as Cris Pitogo, 22, and Antonio Motoc, 33. *Leila Salaverria*

Pasay police station stinks to high heavens

DON'T be surprised if you happen to go to the Pasay City Police Headquarters and see lawmen with white towels wrapped around their faces.

Most likely, you would feel the need to cover your nose, too.

The septic tank of the Pasay City Jail, located in front of the police headquarters, is being cleaned. Policemen, complainants, inmates and visitors will have to live with the disgusting smell, at least until Monday.

The police headquarters yesterday was unusually quiet. When the INQUIRER went to the station, only one lawman, who had a white cloth around his face, was inside.

Some visitors, who never expected to be welcomed by the sight of thick blackish fluid flowing to their shoes, even vomited because of the foul odor.

The nearby canteens were empty. Sonia Tenorio, owner of one of the eateries, frowned as she told the INQUIRER that her regular customers did not show up yesterday. Those who did could not eat because of the smell.

"By this time, there should be no more food left to eat," another canteen owner said in Filipino yesterday. "But now, only the flies are feasting on the food."

City jail inmates and employees had been complaining about toilet bowls overflowing in the past weeks. The complaints prompted the City Engineer's Office to unclog the jail's septic tank yesterday.

Rizal Ventura, who got inside the septic tank to unclog the pipes, told the INQUIRER that he recovered sacks of human waste, two blankets and a few T-shirts from the septic tank. He promised to clear up the air at the station by Monday.

Edson Tandoc

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POOL: Asian 9-Ball Tour; 11 a.m. (r); Star Sports—Check out all the highlights of the Manila leg.

World Pool Championship 2003, Day 1, 1st Session; 9 p.m.; 2nd Session; tomorrow at 2 a.m.; Star Sports—Earl "the Pearl" Strickland will go all out as he defends his title in Cardiff, Wales against a tough field composed of the best cue artists from all over the world.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

WHAT'S INSIDE

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Chinese ends Tañamor's world title campaign

By Roy Luarca

HARRY Tañamor connects with a left straight against his Korean foe in this file photo. REUTERS

HARRY Tañamor's dream and Team RP Revicon's campaign in the World Amateur boxing championships ended abruptly last night.

Chinese sensation Zou Shiming outclassed Tañamor, 21-13, in their light flyweight semifinal duel, ending the Filipino's gold medal aspirations and wiping out the five-man RP contingent in the biennial event in Bangkok, Thailand.

Tañamor settled for the bronze medal, matching his finish in the 2001 world championships in Ireland.

Zou, who posted the tournament's biggest shocker when he beat defending champion Yan Varela Barteleny of Cuba in the quarterfinals, became the first Chinese to reach the finals of the world championships.

The 24-year-old Tañamor, who whipped Belarusian Zhmarlit Starhei, 22-7, Thursday night, was baffled by the hit-and-run tactic of the Chinese and failed to connect with his 1-2 combinations.

Another Filipino, Violito Payla, bowed to world champion Jerome Thomas of France via RSC-O (Referee Stopped Contest-outclassed) in three rounds *(See related story)* in another quarterfinal bout Thursday night.

Tañamor also accounted for the Philippines' lone silver medal in the Busan Asian Games last year as well as in the 7th A. Socikas tournament in Sevilla, Spain in May.

The early casualties in the five-man RP Revicon team in the biennial event were featherweight Jorgen Ladon, welterweight Florencio Ferrer and bantam Arlan Lerio.

Team RP Revicon is also being supported by Pacific Heights, the Philippine Sports Commission and Accel, the official outfitter.

Thomas is one of five boxers still on track of retaining their respective 2001 world crowns.

Other titlists in the semifinals are Cubans Odlanier Fonte Solis (heavyweight), Mario Kindelan (lightweight) and Lorenzo Aragon (welterweight) and Russian light heavyweight Yevgeny Makarenko.

Cuba dominated the 2001 Ireland edition of the biennial event, snaring seven of the 12 golds staked.

Payla's tormentor still in hunt

BANGKOK—Frenchman Jerome Thomas kept his impressive form when he outclassed Filipino Violito Payla at the World Amateur Boxing Championships.

The 23-year-old Thomas, who was born with a chest abnormality which required 15 operations to correct, outgunned Payla late Thursday in the flyweight quarterfinals.

Redheaded Thomas stormed into the lead in the opening rounds with solid punching and the referee stopped the fight in the third round to save the Filipino from further punishment.

"Jerome (Thomas) is a very good boxer with a big heart. He is a world champion after all," said France's team leader Dominique Nato. "We are confident of his ability."

The fiery Frenchman is on track to meet local hero Somjit Jongjohor in the final.

Thai favorite Somjit, the 2002 Asian Games gold medalist, was roared on to a narrow 23-22 victory over Yuderkis Gamboa of Cuba by a big home crowd.

The United States camp, who complained of "anti-American sentiment" as their campaign fell apart with eight boxers going out in the first round, are assured of a medal after a spirited performance by welterweight André Berto.

AFP

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Buhain, Dayrit agree on different SEAG roles

By Marc Anthony Reyes

"NOW our roles have been made very clear to us."

With the delineation of responsibilites, the Philippine Olympic Committee and the Philippine Sports Commission promised yesterday a happy working relationship, when the country sees action in the Southeast Asian Games this December and serves as host of the same event in 2005.

The decision to join hands for the sake of Philippine sports came, after POC president Celso Dayrit and PSC chair Eric Buhain meet for three hours at the Westin Philippine Plaza to discuss matters regarding the two SEAG events.

"Many things have been threshed out and have been resolved," said Dayrit after the meeting. "We look forward to a smooth sailing in our preparation for the 2003 and 2005 SEA Games."

"Now our roles have been made very clear to us," added Dayrit.

Basically, Dayrit and Buhain have agreed that for the 2005 SEAG, the POC, through Philsoc, will be in charge of organizing and running the sportsfest, with the PSC taking care of preparing the athletes and the competition venues.

"We are all very happy working together, said Buhain, adding "the relationship (of POC and PSC) has been going on well, although the misunderstandings have been exaggerated."

The POC and the PSC had fought mainly over the composition and funding of the RP contingent to the Vietnam SEAG this December and the sponsorship of Team Philippines. Another critical issue was the reconstitution recently of the Philsoc, the organizing committee for the 2005 SEAG, into a purely POC body.

The Vietnam row was resolved, when President Arroyo told Buhain to fund all the athletes approved by the POC.

The PSC chief said he and Dayrit will present a position report to Budget Sec. Emilia Boncodin, regarding the hosting of the 2005 SEAG.

Buhain added he and Dayrit also plan to meet every month to avoid any misunderstanding and miscommunications.

The POC head said the PSC, which has been relegated to the SEAG advisory group tasked to lend support to the Philsoc, will be given positions in the Philsoc subcommittees, particularly in the field of technical expertise.

The reason for the change in the Philsoc composition, according to Dayrit, is that there was an opinion from the Office of the President that cabinet officials could not hold two positions.

This did not affect the PSC, according to Buhain.

"The atmosphere was very cordial and friendly," said Dayrit, who was accompanaied in the meeting by 2003 Vietnam SEAG chef of mission Julian Camacho and POC secretary general Romy Ribano.

Buhain came with PSC executive director Ed Mateo.

"I think we will be more supportive of each other now," said Dayrit, who had criticized the PSC's grassroots projects like the Luzon and Visayas Games and the National Championships which were subsequently scrapped by the PSC this year.

TEMECULA JUNGOLF

Agojo, Asistio virtual victors

By Jong Arcano

TEMECULA, California—Tonton Asistio is the odd boy out among the Philippine bets in the ongoing 11th Temecula International junior golf championships.

Reason is, he's the only one not playing in next week's Callaway Junior World Championships.

But Asistio, who was disqualified in the Junior World qualifying for signing a wrong scorecard, showed the RP team mainstays a potential spark plug they'll miss after he fired a second consecutive sub-par round on Thursday (Friday in Manila) to virtually secure the title in the boys 12-13 years division.

After shooting a one-under 71 at the SCGA Members Club in the opening round, Asistio fired a three-under 69, the best in the tournament so far, at the Red Hawk Golf Club to pull away by 11 strokes over Temecula bet Evan Emerick.

The explosive play of Asistio—he's the only [illegible] team a second victory as Jayvie Agojo is already a cinch to pick up a fourth straight title due to lack of opposition in the girls 16-18 division.

There are only a few entries in Agojo's group and after she scored a 76 yesterday for a 36-hole total of 146, the next player in the standings was compatriot Matet Salivio (87), who was 20 shots behind at 166.

Friday's final round will be played at the Menifee Lakes Country Club in nearby Menifee with two other members of the RP contingent backed by Philippine Airlines, Samsung, Airlift Asia and the Philippine Sports Commission still in the title hunt.

Despite losing early gains they made during the second round, Gino Bunyi and Geleen Handog will be out to stage big comebacks on the final day.

Handog was in hot pursuit of the leaders three-fourths of the way but finished badly, scoring another 82 for 164.

She trails co-leaders Mariane Jaslowski (82) and Kristina Gillenwater (80) by six strokes in the girls 13-15 years division.

Bunyi failed to keep in stride with first round co-leaders Rickie Fowlet and Steven Derminio and dropped eight shots back. Bunyi was at 154 against the 146 of Fowlet, who shot a 73, and the 149 of Derminio, who carded a 74.

[illegible] kids for next week's Junior World in various San Diego courses.

"We already have two trophies in the bag, hopefully we can get one or two more after tomorrow's final round," said Gerry Handog, president of the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines.

JAYVIE Agojo with Aileen Yao (at the back) during the Philippine ladies amateur open.

ROGER MARGALLO

SORENSTAM AP

Annika quits

VANCOUVER—Heather Bowie took the lead with a 6-under 66, and Annika Sorenstam withdrew after six holes Thursday in the Canadian Women's Open.

Sorenstam said she was worn out by a busy schedule and a cold that has bothered her since last week's US Open.

"I feel bad for the fans and the tournament, but my body feels ill," she said.

Sorenstam was 1 over through six holes.

South Korea's Grace Park and Jeong Jang, Pat Hurst and Juli Inkster opened with 68s. Defending champion Meg Mallon and Se Ri Pak were in a group of nine players at 69. *AP*

Paragua, Sanchez down foes

PARAGUA

INDIVIDUAL STANDINGS AFTER ROUND 6: 1-2. Todorov Todor 2471 and David Alberto 2550: 5.0; 3-10. Vachier-Lagrave Maxime 2386 ; Savchenko Stanislav 2560 ; Shchkachev Andrei 2550 ; Simon Olivier 2315 ; Bagheri Amir 2500 ; Brochet Philippe 2388 ; Abergel Thal 2412 and PARAGUA MARK 2500 (PHI) : 4.5 11-19. Landa Konstantin 2614 ; Chabanon Jean-Luc 2498 ; Greenfeld Alon 2556 ; Schabanel Stephane 2271; SANCHEZ JOSEPH 2410 (PHI) ; Apicella Manuel 2522 ; Serafimov Tervel 2342 ; Bellaïche Anthony 2429, Dourerassou Jonathan 2202 : 4.0 20-27. Afek Yochanan 2387 ; Chomet Pascal 2381; Mullon Jean-Baptiste 2286 ; Shoker Samy 2232 ; Karr Jean-Philippe 2363 ; Berthelot Yannick 2340 ; Dubois Loic 2243 and Calistri Tristan 2270 : 3.5

By Roy Luarca

FILIPINOS Mark Paragua and Joseph Sanchez won their sixth round matches Thursday night, both moving within sight of the title and a GM result in the Championnat de Paris 2003 Open chess championship at the Commerce Industrial de Paris in France.

The 19-year-old Paragua, seeded eighth with his Elo of 2500, beat fellow IM Pascal Chomet (ELO 2381) of France to raise his total to 4.5 points and climb to a share of 3rd to 10th places in the 69-man tournament.

Sanchez, on the other hand, whipped Fide master Asher Glicenstein of France to improve to 4 points and gain a tie for 11th-19th.

Paragua was bunched with Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Elo 2386); Stanislav Savchenko (2560); Andrei Shchkachev (2550); Olivier Simon (2315); Bagheri Amir 2500 ; Philippe Brochet (2388) and Thal Abergel Thal (2412).

With three rounds to go, IM Todor Todorov (2471) of Bulgaria and GM Alberto David (2550) of Luxembourg share top spot with 5 points.

"Please continue praying for me and *Kuya* Joseph. Let's us hope that we won't lose our momentum in the last three rounds," said Paragua, who will also see action in the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games and the 2004 World Chess Championship in London.

The Europe campaign of Paragua and Sanchez, who is Paragua's trainer/coach, is being supported by Hector Tagaysay of Filway Marketing Incorporated and distributor of Timelife Magazine, the National Chess Federation of the Philippines and the Philippine Sports Commission. *With a report from NM Marlon Bernardino*

Lhuillier gets 2 new players

NBL Standings—Lhuillier Kwarta Padala (5-1 win-loss); MayniLA 7-2; Pampanga Bulls 5-4; Compak Shineway-Ozamiz 3-3; Forward Taguig 4-4; AirPhil-Bacolod 2-5; Spring Cooking Oil 2-9

Today's Games (Ozamiz City)
4 p.m.—Lhuiller vs AirPhil
6 p.m.—Compak Shineway vs MayniLA

PACESETTER M. Lhuillier Kwarta Padala of Cebu is really bent on topping the National Basketball League national finals.

Boasting a bench good enough to win five of its six games, M. Lhuillier further enhanced its title chances with the acquisition of veterans Ruben de la Rosa and Bruce Dacia.

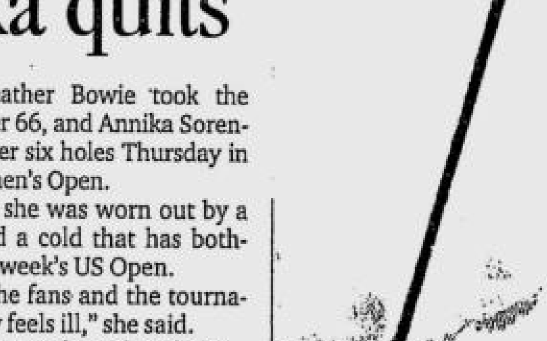
Lhuillier coach Raul "Yayoy" Alcoseba is expected to use the 6-foot-2 De la Rosa and the 6-foot-3 Dacia, both former slam dunk champions, when the Cebuanos tangle with Air Philippines Bacolod (2-5) in the 4 p.m. opener at the Gov. Angel N. Medina Sr. Memorial Gym in Ozamiz City.

MayniLA (7-2) battles Compak Shineway Ozamiz (3-3) at 6 p.m.

MayniLA, being backed by Air 21 chair Bert Lina and Manila Sports Council head Ali Atienza, is expected to lean anew on NBL scoring leader Ernani Epondulan, Francis Sanz and Ralph Rivera against the host team.

Today's twinbill as well as tomorrow's games, pitting AirPhil against MayniLA at 1 p.m. and Compak Shineway against M. Lhuillier at 3 p.m., are Mayor Reynaldo O. Pajorinog's offerings to his constituents, who are celebrating the city fiesta. *Roy Luarca*

Bata, Django enjoy high World Pool rankings



EFREN "Bata" Reyes is rated as top favorite. AP

By Roy Luarca

HALL-OF-FAMER Efren "Bata" Reyes and last year's runner-up Francisco "Django" Bustamante head the Filipino brigade once again when the World 9-Ball Pool Championship opens today in Cardiff, Wales.

Reyes, the 1999 champion of the $300,000 (P24M) event, and Bustamante are bent on bouncing back from their disappointing stint in the recent RP-Europe Challenge where Reyes could only land third and Bustamante fifth.

On-line bettors have picked the 49-year-old Reyes as top favorite with Bustamante rated third in the 128-man field, divided into 16 groups of eight players each.

Completing the roster of Team Philippines are 2001 Southeast Asian Games gold medalist Warren Kiamco, Busan Asian Games gold medalist Antonio "Nickoy" Lining, Lee Van Corteza, former snooker champion Marlon Manalo and qualifiers Dennis "Surigao" Orcullo and Ramil "Bebeng" Gallego.

Reyes, No. 1 in the SMB Asian 9-ball ranking, is in Group 4 while Bustamante is in Group 2. Kiamco is in Group 9, Lining (16), Orcullo (14), Gallego (9), Lee Van Corteza (10) and Manalo (5). Toronto-based Filipino, Alex Pagulayan, is in Group 11.

After a race-to-five, single round-robin, the top four in each group will move into the money round of 64, where play shifts to race to 9.

American defending champion Earl Strickland heads Group 1. Other touted players vying for the $65,000 (P3.4M) top purse are 2001 titlist and RP-Europe Challenge champion Mika Immonen of Finland, 2000 winner Fong Pang Chao of Chinese-Taipei, two-time champion Johnny Archer, 1995 topnotcher Oliver Ortmann of Germany and 1996 titlist Ralf Souquet, also of Germany.

The games will be shown live over Star Sports from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Campo's ball boy is a thief

FLORENCIO Campomanes, FIDE chair emeritus and honorary president for life, lost $1,100 and P500 to a thief who turned out to be his own ball boy last July 6, while taking a shower after playing tennis at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

RMSC chief of security Bonifacio Corpin said Jaime Terrobias, Campomanes' ball boy, admitted the theft after he was apprehended three days after the incident. He is now detained at Station 9 of the Western Police District. His live-in partner, Mylene, returned the remaining $300 of the stolen money.

Based on Corpin's report, Campomanes noticed his racket bag, where he placed his wallet inside, was missing when he came out of the shower. He quickly called the attention of the people inside the shower room before Terrobias himself pointed to him where his bag was.

Corpin said Campomanes noted that only P500 was missing and did not bother to check his dollars because he was rushing to catch a flight to Cebu. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

New venue for Tampus title bout

STONEWALL Boxing Club's Marvin "Leyte Bomber" Tampus, the Pan-Asian Boxing Association junior flyweight king, will defend his crown for the second time on August 8 against a soon-to-be-named challenger in Bangkok, Thailand.

Terry Carter, Tampus' manager, told the INQUIRER in a long-distance call from Thailand yesterday that he has given Phong Thawornwiwatnbutr, former trainer of former WBA junior bantam champ Kaosai Galaxy, authority to arrange Tampus' title defense.

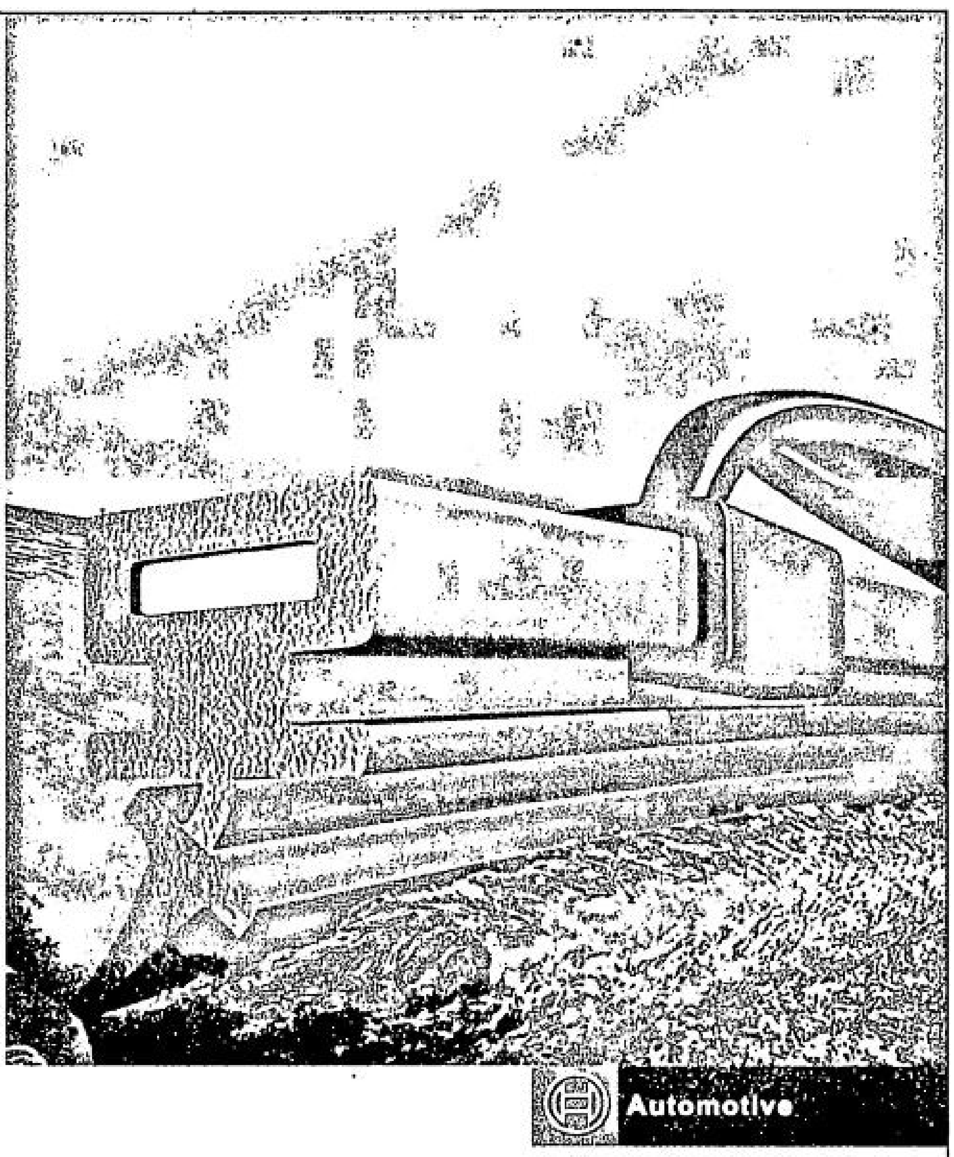
The 18-year-old Tampus, the WBA no. 5 junior flyweight, had earlier been booked to defend his title against ex-world champ Pichit Sor Siriwat on the same date in Manila. However, the Tampus-Siriwat match fell through after the Thai camp asked for a hefty $10,000 purse. *Salven Lagumbay*

Paca warns national cyclists

THE PHILIPPINE Amateur Cycling Association yesterday warned members of the national and training teams to stick to their training regimen as specified by coach Jommel Lorenzo.

Armando Bautista, Paca secretary general, said the nationals, who are preparing for the Vietnam SEA Games, must refrain from activities that might affect their stint with the team.

Given the memorandum were Victor Espiritu, Arnel .Quirimit, Elmo Ramos, Enrique Domingo, Villamor Baluyot, Warren Davadilla, Lloyd Lucien Reynante, Paterno Curtan, Wilson Blas, Nilo Estayo, Alfie Catalan, Paulo Manapul, Ronald Gorantes and Danzel Yaranon.



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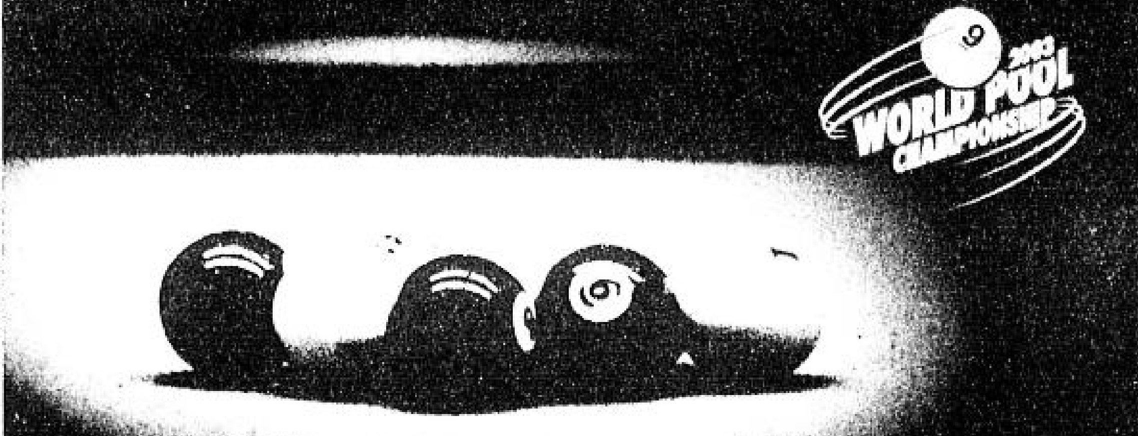

Earl Strickland overcame a star studded field the last time around, will he do it again, or is Efren Reyes a challenger to the throne of 'The Pearl?'

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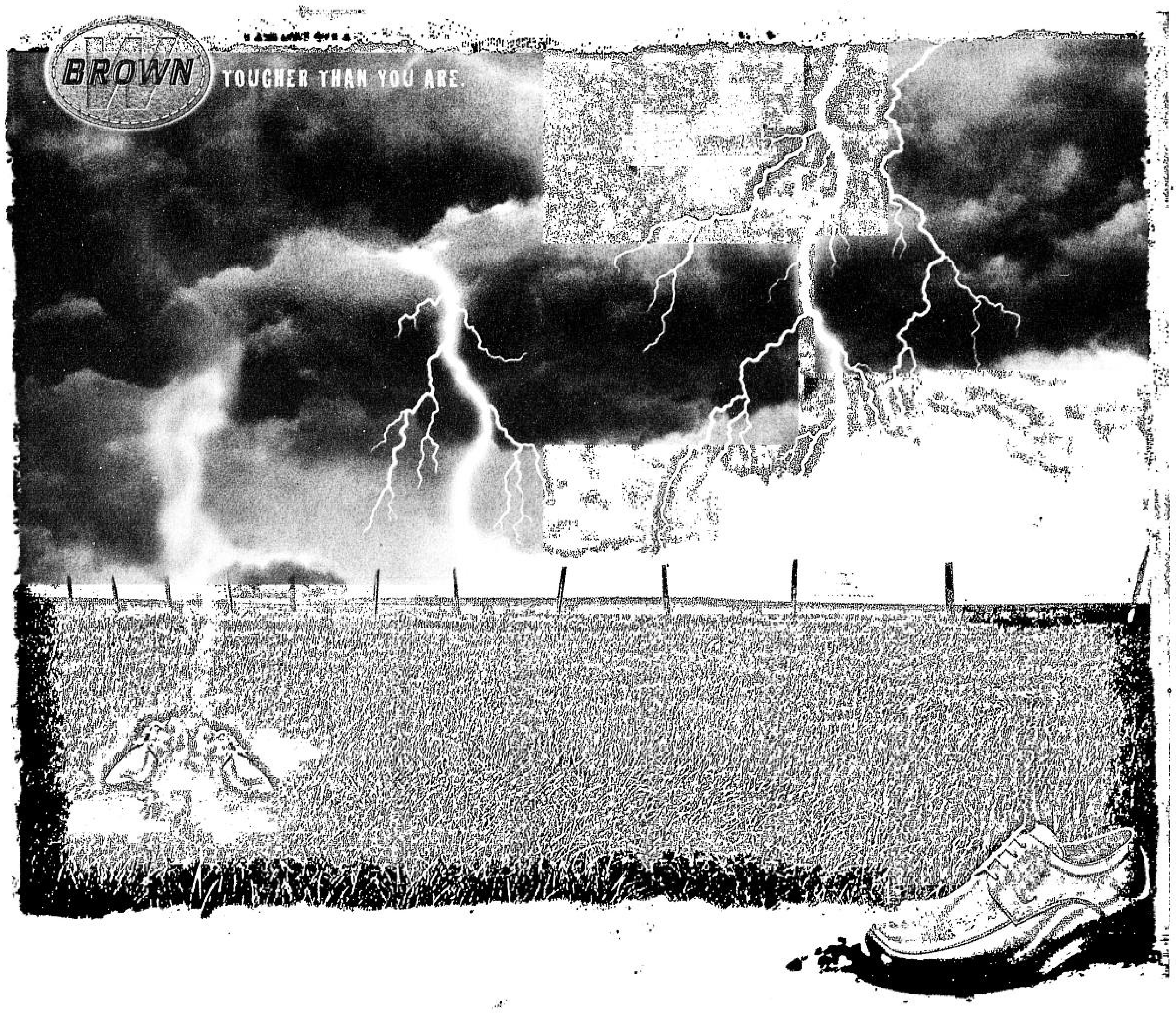

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Fight of his life

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

REMEMBER Carlos Rios?

He was the man Luisito "Louie" Espinosa knocked out in Koronadal, South Cotabato, on Dec. 6, 1997, 10 days before the start of the Misa de Gallo.

Oh, that fight. I was there. My first world title fight as sports editor of this paper. (I have ceased being one last April 1).

That fight began at dusk, when shadows started lengthening and people were screaming "Louie! Louie!" almost non-stop.

Espinosa was fighting for the first time in the promised land. Mindanaoans, excited to watch their first world boxing fight live, started streaming into the track-oval stadium as early as 2 p.m., when the bout was supposed to start at 6 p.m. By 4 p.m., the atmosphere was carnival.

In a supporting bout, Gerry Peñalosa pitched in his own version of how to enliven a Pinoy fiesta.

The kid from San Carlos City knocked out an opponent whose name I couldn't remember anymore. Gerry's opponent that day was a Thai to begin with, and Thai names are not only tongue twisters but also hard to spell as well. You expect me to remember everything?

I'm not Milton Alingod, 'ya know.

Gerry's victory came in the first round. He dispatched the Thai with the cold-blooded quickness of a hog butcher.

First, Gerry dug a right to the ribs, and next followed that up with a left to the jaw. The Thai crumpled like plastic quickly eaten by fire. It was over but the shouting. Within months after the fight, Gerry would become world champion.

When Espinosa climbed the ring, he glistened like a gladiator from another era. You know, that time when Kirk Douglas was Spartacus and Charleston Heston the indestructible Ben Hur.

When Espinosa started fighting, he was pure machine at work.

Rios "The Rock" was simply no match to Espinosa, called "Lindol" by the late, lamented Joe Cantada.

"Lindol" rocked "The Rock" so often that by the fifth round, "The Rock" started to fight like a warped tin can being kicked around.

In the middle of the sixth, as Espinosa was battering Rios at will, referee Jay Nady stepped in and stopped the fight. Nady, from Las Vegas, Nevada, and the man who also officiated the Espinosa-Medina bout at the Luneta only a while back (Espinosa won), ruled a TKO win for Louie.

Right after Nady had stopped the fight, he embraced the wobbly, badly shaken Rios. Nady next led the limp body of the Argentinian to his corner in a manner as though Rios was his dear son he had just rescued from muggers in a gangland alley—face bloodied and all.

A job nicely done.

For Louie?

Yes, if we refer at the way he handled the fight. Precise.

But, alas, a job nicely done does not always reward a fighter the purse rightfully due him.

Six years after the fight, Louie remains unpaid. His purse of $150,000 missing. Uncollected.

Larry de Pedro, then governor of South Cotabato who helped stage the fight, had said then that the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office guaranteed Louie's purse.

So is PCSO to blame?

Joe Koizumi, then the Japanese manager of Louie, had said organizers refused to honor their word to give Louie's purse after the fight.

Turned out only Rios got paid. $30,000. Net of tax.

Months later, a case was filed to collect Louie's purse. It went to the sala of Felicisimo Cabigao, the former vice mayor of Manila. Unfortunately, Cabigao retired before a decision could be made.

The case was gathering dust in the archives when Noel Rivera, Louie's best friend in their teens in Newark just outside San Francisco, California, came marching in.

Louie was almost ready to a life strapped to a rocking chair by the fireside, when Noel prodded his bosom buddy to continue the fight. Noel got Sammy Estimo, the esteemed chess official, to lawyer for Louie and the rest, as we love to say, is history.

Two years to the day Estimo re-filed the case, Louie's fight to claim his purse remains unresolved. Why, because Rosario Cruz, the judge who replaced Cabigao at RTC Manila, has sat on the case for reasons only she knows.

You talk of justice delayed, justice denied stuff, that's Louie Espinosa for you.

You talk of mistreatment done on people of valor, toasted on the world stage for years, hailed as a living monument of boxing greatness, there's Louie Espinosa for you.

You talk of utter injustice, look not far. Louie Espinosa, two-time world champion, of folkloric Tondo, hero of the Filipino masses, is a screaming case right at your doorstep.

Oops, wait a minute, fellas.

Louie Espinosa, the bamboo gatherer, son of a waiter, who put the country in the world map for almost two decades with his ring exploits, is now in America doing odd jobs. Waiter. Bar tender. Bus boy.

Louie still fights, the job he, at 36, so still dearly loves doing but only occasionally now.

If Louie wins the fight of his life at Cruz's sala, you think he'll finally come home and retire in peace?

You bet, he will. More than the money, justice served is the sweetest victory, if not incentive, of all.

FASTBREAK. Engineer Elpidio Mendoza, my first cousin, is celebrating today. Happy Birthday Manong Pidiong. Greetings also to Dance Sport Council of the Philippines for staging the 7th Midyear Ranking & Competition - Alaxan FR CUP. starting at 1 p.m. today at Philsport arena.

Desperate to win NBA title, Malone fo

LOS ANGELES—Free agent Karl Malone, the NBA's second-leading all-time scorer, committed Thursday to join the Los Angeles Lakers, giving them a lineup with four superstars.

Larry Miller, the owner of the Utah Jazz with whom Malone has played since 1985, said he had spoken with the forward on Thursday and Malone confirmed he intends to sign with the Lakers.

Malone joins Shaquille O'Neal, Kobe Bryant and another newcomer, Gary Payton. Payton, a nine-time All-Star who agreed earlier this week to sign with the Lakers.

Even though Malone and Payton have agreed to come to Los Angeles, the first day free agents can sign contracts is Wednesday.

Both Malone, a two-time league MVP, and Payton have not played on an NBA championship team. The Lakers won the title three straight years before losing to eventual champion San Antonio in the second round this year.

Malone, who turns 40 on July 24, made it to the NBA Finals twice, in 1997 and 1998. Both times, the Jazz lost to Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls. The Chicago coach was Phil Jackson, now coach of the Lakers.

Malone averaged 20.6 points last season to lead Utah for the 17th cons
His average of 7.75 reboun
team's highest for the 18th str

Before joining the Lakers
son, Malone has committed
third Olympics.

His agent, Dwight Manley, sai
was considering going to San A
las, but when Payton decided to
ers, that alone would have mad

Never-say-die TNT rules in OT, seizes 3-2 lead

RUDY Hatfield of Coca Cola drives past Harvey

GAME TOMORROW (Cuneta Astrodome)
6 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Talk N Text (Game 6)

By June Navarro

TALK N Text bucked a sizzling Coca-Cola start in overtime to win, 97-92, at the Araneta Coliseum last night and move within a victory of clinching the Samsung All-Filipino Cup.

Clutch hits by Victor Pablo and Patrick Fran gave the Phone Pals a 94-89 lead and Asi Taulava added two free throws that boosted Talk N Text to 3-2 lead in the best-of-seven playoffs.

It was the third straight victory in the title series for Talk N Text which looked like a goner after Johnny Abarrientos had opened the extension with back-to-back jumpers and an assist as the defending champion Tigers took an 87-81 advantage.

Talk N Text shoots for its ever title in the league tomorrow at the Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay City.

Ato Morano's twisting layup with 20 seconds left tied the match at 81-all and this stood at the end of regulation play after Morano's potential game-winner rimmed out at the buzzer.

The Tigers took what looked like a decisive 73-64 lead midway in the last quarter but the Phone Pals quickly came back with successive three-pointers by Jimmy Alapag and Bong Ravena, 73-70.

Another Ravena triple gave the Phone Pals a 79-79 tie and Taulava shoved Talk N Text ahead with two free throws, 81-79, with 32 seconds to go.

The Tigers rallied from 11 points down in the first 10 minutes of action to pull ahead, 41-40, at the half.

Poch Juinio and Rudy Hatfield joined hands as the Tigers fiercely overhauled a 29-18 deficit.

Rafi Reavis, Juinio and Hatfield combined to stymie Taulava inside the paint, limiting the Phone Pals' chief gunner to only two field goals in three attempts.

Early foul trouble again hounded the Tigers as Morano committed three while Jeffrey Cariaso and Juinio got two fouls apiece.

Fran scored the first six points for the Phone Pals to spark the explosive start that carried them to that 29-18 lead.

But the Tigers threw a smothering defense inside the lane and extended it in the perimeter, in the process breaking up several deliberate plays by the Phone Pals.

Earlier, Barangay Ginebra redeemed itself from a humiliating debut in the Mabuhay Cup by clobbering Purefoods, 112-78, to keep its hopes alive for a qualifying slot in the Asian Invitationals set later this month.

The 34-point winning margin was the Gin Kings' biggest under coach Allan Caidic while the loss was the Hotdogs' worst since a 119-84 defeat to Gordon's Gin in the semifinals of the 1988 All Filipino Cup.

Scores:

First Game

GINEBRA 112 —Menk 27, Dimaunahan 20, Salvacion 16, Caguioa 15, Calpito 8, David 8, Ballesteros 7, Adducul 6, Tolomia 5, Sanders 0.

PUREFOODS 78 —Castillo 23, Raymundo 19, Santos 14, Mamaril 8, Yee 6, Mesina 4, Echavez 2, Cantonjos 1, Demape 1, Patrimonio 0.

Quarters: 26-28, 57-34, 66-55,112-78

Second Game

TALK N TEXT 97 —Taulava 26, Fran 19, Pablo 16, Carey 13, Alapag 10, Ravena 6, Telan 4, Manalo 3, Belano 0.

COCA-COLA 92— Hatfield 23, Juinio 16, Cariaso 16, Reavis 14, Abarrientos 13, Wainwright 5, Morano 3, Antonio 2, Bolado 0.

Quarters: 23-15, 40-41, 61-all, 81-all (reg), 97-92.

A cool, cozy Astrodome in Game Six?

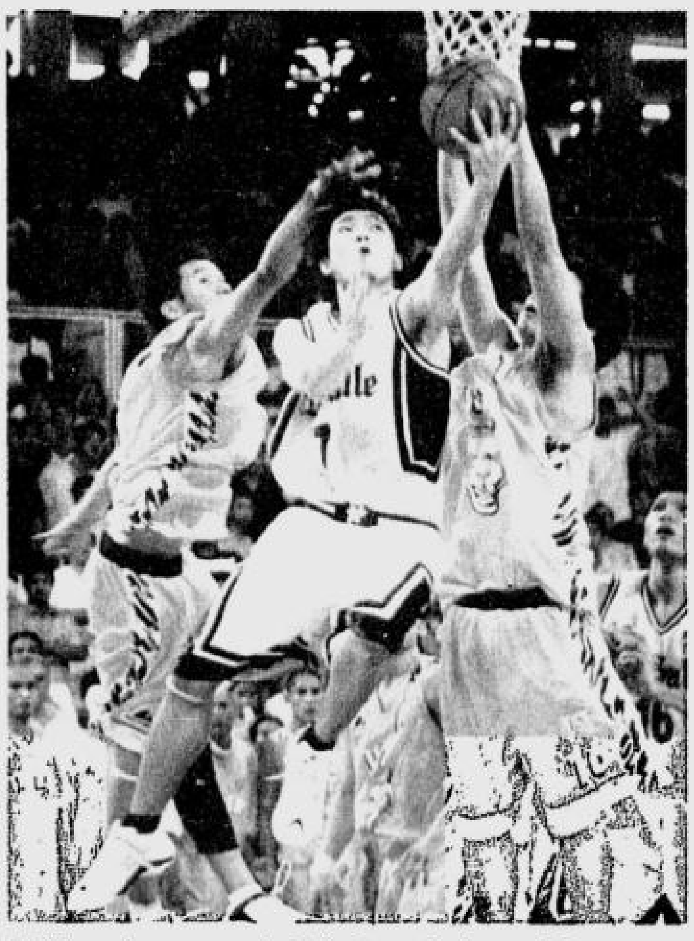
WILL IT be another steamy return for the Philippine Basketball Association Finals at the Cuneta Astrodome?

Officials yesterday said the Astrodome management has vowed to fix the airconditioning system of the Pasay City venue in time for Game 6 of the Samsung All-Filipino Cup championship series between Coca-Cola and Talk N Text tomorrow.

It was oven-hot at the Astrodome in Game 1 of the Finals last week because only four of the six airconditioning units were working.

Media bureau chief Willie Marcial said one of the two airconditioning units just needed cleaning while the other one has yet to be restored to its old working condition.

"But don't worry. They (Astrodome officials) promised to fix it in time for Game 6," said Marcial.



LAST year's runner-up La Salle Green Archers and Santo Tomas Tigers play in the mainer at 4 p.m. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Archers tackle Tigers a

League raises curtain to all 14 events i

By Dennis U. Eroa

GAMES TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)
1 p.m.—Opening ceremonies
2 p.m.—UP vs NU (Srs)
4 p.m.—UST vs La Salle (Srs)
6 p.m.—UST vs La Salle (Jrs)

HISTORY will be on La Salle's side when the new-look Archers try to start their title-campaign on a high note against University of Santo Tomas today in the mainer of a triplebill launching the 66th UAAP men's basketball championship at the Big Dome.

Not only has La Salle beaten UST 10 straight times since 1999, but the Green Archers also hold the distinction of winning their opening games since 1988, a span of 15 remarkable years.

Coach Franz Pumaren, however, isn't going to lose sleep thinking of how to preserve La Salle's enviable record, which also includes making nine straight finals appearance since 1994.

Rather, Pumaren, author of La Salle's four-peat from 1998-2001, is more concerned in finding a way to find the perfect mix between his holdovers and eight newcomers.

"We can compete if the rookies and the veterans are able to adjust to each other. I hope to keep the record, but it will not be the end of the world in case of a loss. It's going to be a long season," Pumaren said.

The Archers last tasted defeat on opening-day when they bowed to Far Eastern University on July 18, 1987.

Gametime between the Archers and the Tigers is set at 4 p.m., after the 2 o'clock clash between University of the Philippines and National University.

A high school match between UST and La Salle rounds out the schedule at 6 p.m.

True to its yearly traditio
league gets going with a co
opening show focusing
Olympism starting at 1 p.m.

Busan Asian Games
medalist Mikee Cojuang
worski is the guest of honor.

Beaten by La Salle in last
Final Four, UST is also para
lineup minus the firepow
Cyrus Baguio and Nino
who have graduated.

"If we can follow our
plan, then we have a cha
said UST and national men'
ketball team mentor Ari
Rosario. "But to beat La S
easier said than done," he a

While La Salle boasts o
able big men in Carlo Sh
Manny Ramos, Michael G
and rookies Peter Walsham
Jerwin Gaco, UST pins its
mainly on three undersiz
side players (Warren de Gu

National five won't miss varsity aces

By Dennis U. Eroa

GRAHAM Lim, secretary general of the BAP, yesterday said he doesn't see any problem if the UAAP board won't allow its players to play for the Philippine team in the coming PBA Invitational Cup.

The Invitational Cup, which will feature three international teams, is part of the national team's buildup for the Vietnam SEA Games and the Asian Basketball Championships.

The event, however, runs in conflict with the schedule of the UAAP basketball tournament, which will start today at the Big Dome. The Invitational Cup will unfurl on July 27.

Jose Capistrano Jr., the UAAP president from host Ateneo, told yesterday's SCOOP Forum that the league is committed only to the SEA Games and the ABC campaigns of the RP five.

"We have already adjusted our schedule in relation to those events. But we have not discussed the participation of UAAP players in the PBA Invitationals," Capistrano said.

Lim, however, is least worried.

"The BAP respects whatever decision the UAAP will make regarding the participation of its players in the PBA event. I agree that players mu
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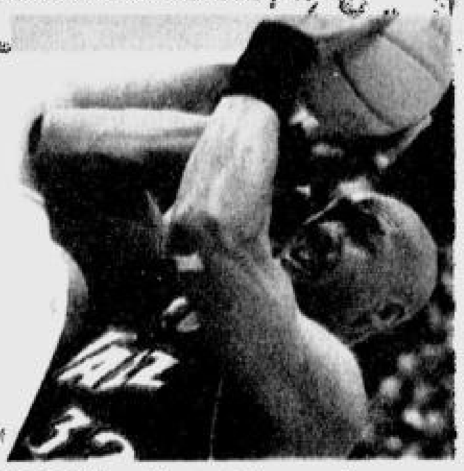
vorite for the league title next year. Malone, who is taking a big pay cut to come to the Lakers, said that his prime goal was to win a championship.

His 36,374 career points trail only Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's 38,387. The record is still within range, but sharing the offense with Bryant, O'Neal and Payton will cut into his 25.4 career scoring average.

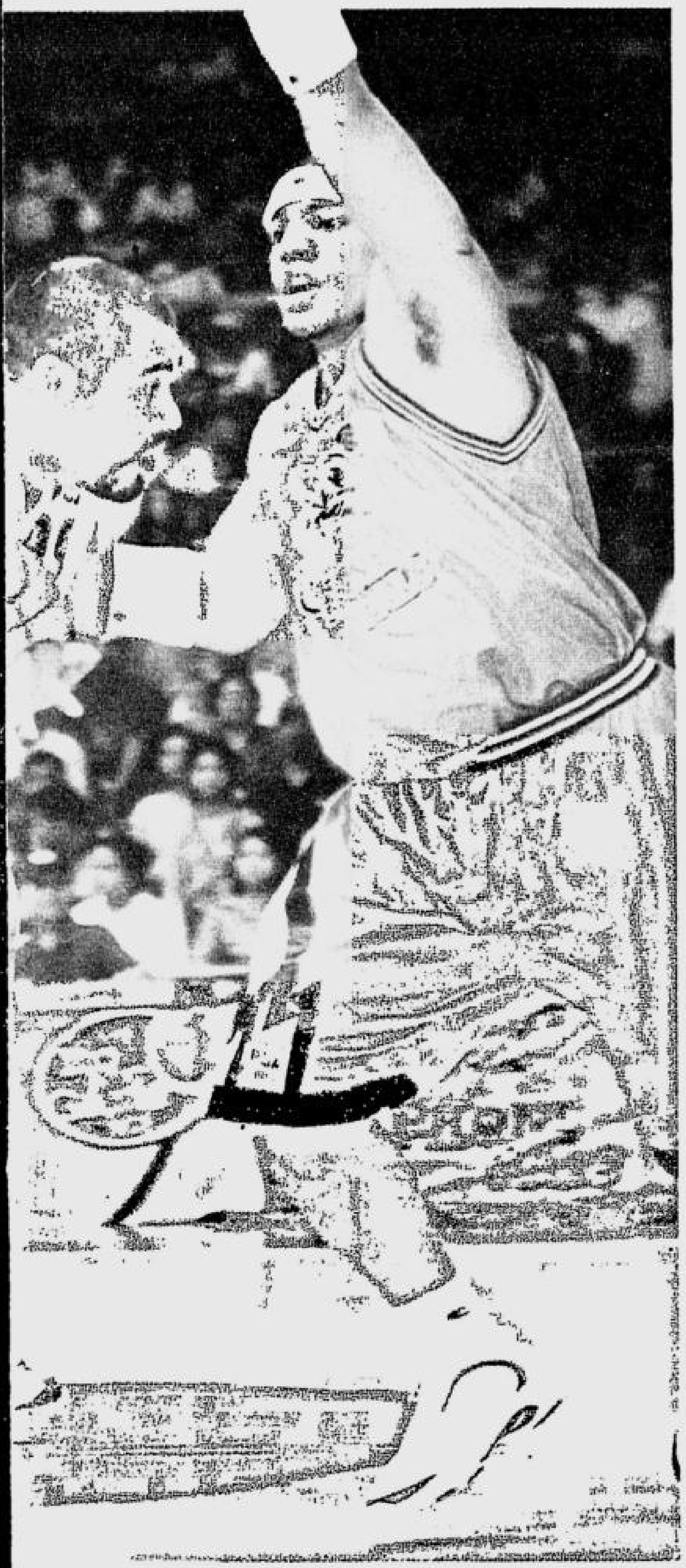
He is the only player with 35,000 points, 10,000 rebounds, 4,000 assists and 2,000 steals. His 1,434 games played is fourth on the all-time list.

The league's MVP in 1997 and 1999, Malone averaged at least 25 points for 11 straight seasons (1987-98).

Malone, who made $19.3 million last year, reportedly will get the veteran's minimum salary of $1.5 million to have a shot at an NBA title with the Lakers. *AP*



MALONE could get minimum salary.



Carey of Talk N' Text in this bit of action last night. AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

Cards wrest lead as Lions down Altas

By Dennis U. Eroa

GAMES MONDAY
(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
11:30 a.m.—Letran vs San Sebastian College (Jrs/Srs)
3:00 p.m.—JRU vs St. Benilde (Jrs/Srs)

'We still need to improve our defense. Our offense will continue to improve due to our defense'

MAPUA continued its surprising run with a masterful 61-50 win over Philippine Christian University and seized the solo leadership last night in the NCAA men's basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The Cardinals, who improved their win-loss record to 3-1, leaned on a swirling fourth quarter assault to beat the Dolphins, who sank to their third loss in four games.

Christian Guevarra, Nat Cruz and Jeff Gonzales finished with double figures for the Horacio Lim-coached Cardinals.

Earlier, San Beda College snapped a two-game losing streak with a surprisingly easy 92-76 triumph over University of Perpetual Help-Rizal.

The Red Lions tied the Altas with a 2-2 record.

Powered by Jerome Paterno, Arjun Cordero and Mark Apepe, the Red Lions exploded with 34 points in the third quarter to break away from a slim 35-33 halftime edge.

In the junior division, the Red Cubs stretched their winning record to four with a 121-72 demolition of UPHR Altalettes. The Altalettes dropped to 0-4.

Despite the win, Lim said the Cardinals must learn to play good defense.

"We still need to improve our defense. Our offense will continue to improve due to our defense," Lim, a former junior coach, said.

UPHR suffered its second straight setback after winning its first two games. Dominador Javier topscored with 22 points but failed to get able support from his teammates, who lost steam in the second half.

First Game (Jrs)

SBC 121—Taganas 20, Martinez 19, Castillo 16, Ferrer 15, Tecson 13, Menor 13, Talamayan 10, Tirona 6, Principe 4, Paredes 2, Ventosa 2, Cartago 2.

UPHR 72—Lozano 19, Panganiban 17, Sanches 11, Solema 7, De la Cruz 4, Albano 3, Ocampo 3, Restauro 2, Jardiel 2, Adriano 2, Narvasa 2, Ballesteros 0, Adriano 0.

Quarters: 29-11, 58-29, 90-46, 121-72

Second Game (Srs)

SBC 92—Paterno 20, Cordero 16, Apepe 15, Bughao 9, Casiño 9, Cruz 8, Angeles 6, Hudencial 4, Bombeo 3, Ong 2, Padilla 0, Weber 0.

UPHR 76—Javier 23, Santos 13, Cuenco 12, Misa 7, Barnson 7, Betin 6, Joe 4, Tayer 4, Balboa 0.

Quarters: 15-16, 35-33, 69-52, 92-76

Third Game (Srs)

MAPUA 61—Guevarra 14, Cruz 11, Gonzales 8, Martin 8, Dula 7, Malig 5, Salud 4, Sumalinog 3, David 1, Veranga 0, Co 0.

PCU 50—Retaga 13, Castro 10, Sanz 6, Guiyab 6, Garrido 5, Senining 4, Roque 4, Salangsang 2, Cecilia 0, Belga 0.

Quarters: 12-19, 28-28, 47-42, 61-50

s UAAP gets going

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and Iago Raterta, both 6-foot-3s, and 6-foot-5 veteran Alwyn Espiritu).

Officials have downplayed the Archers' chances this year. The immediate aim, according to team manager Terry Capistrano, is to make the Final Four and then take it from there.

La Salle fans will miss foxy playmaker Mike Cortez and defenders Willy Wilson and Adonis Sta. Maria. A big loss is BJ Manalo, whose career has been hit with injuries.

Focus will be on former rookie of the year Mark Cardona, who will team up with Joseph Yeo, Tyrone Tang, Oliver Cua, Ryan Arana and Joseph Casio in the backcourt for the Archers.

La Salle went 13-1 in last year's elims, but lost to Ateneo, this year's host, in the best-of-three finals, 2-1.

The Tigers are expected to run and gun against the Archers, whose main weapon remains their untiring defense.

"My rookies are determined to prove that they belong in the UAAP," said Pumaren.

By winning the Fr. Martin's Cup in the pre-season, National University has showed that a small team with a big heart can do wonders. Despite having no legitimate center, the Bulldogs are determined to improve their 2-12 record last year.

Froilan Baguion, Alex Miclat and Rey Mendoza will lead NU's charge against UP, which will parade the comebacking duo of Rob Bornancin and Kenneth Robin.

Skipper Toti Almeda, Jonjon Tabique and Marvin Cruz will alternate in the pointguard position. Starting at center is sophomore JayR Reyes, who at 6-foot-7, is one of the tallest in the league.

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give priority to
ols," Lim told the

ted that the BAP
ield a competitive
pite the absence of
ers.

ve enough talents
24-man national
team," Lim said.
we want to keep
al relations with
" he added.
AP players earlier

named to join the RP five in the Invitationals were two-time UAAP MVP Rich Alvarez and Wesley Gonzales of Ateneo, James Yap and Paul Artadi of UE and Alwin Espiritu of UST.

Also in the national training team are LA Tenorio of Ateneo, Jayar Estrada and Rommel Canaleta of UE, Mark Isip and Gerard Jones of FEU and UST's Dondon Villamin and Jemal Vizcarra.

SPORTS noodle

Bong Barrameda VOL. I NO. 29

Fashion in action

A serving of 7 questions, from easiest to toughest, each with a corresponding point value. Can you score a perfect 100 (or, at least, beat the other 'sports genius/geniuses' beside you)?

1 > 3 Pts.
o True / o False: Sporting garments giant Nike got its name from the Roman goddess of victory.

2 > 5 Pts.
In which sport did the Lacoste fashion label originate?
o Polo
o Tennis

3 > 7 Pts.
Baggy basketball shorts were popularized by Michael Jordan, who wanted them that way because he liked to:
o Tug on his shorts while playing defense
o Feel fresh and free during hang time
o Cover an ugly scar on his lower right thigh

4 > 10 Pts.
Which sports brand is a combination of its founder's first and last name?
o adidas
o Reebok
o Spalding

5 > 15 Pts.
What is the country of origin of the jersey, the type of shirt most athletes wear?
o England
o Germany
o France
o United States

6 > 25 Pts.
Which American baseball team was the first to wear the now ubiquitous rounded-crown, large-visor baseball cap?
o New York Yankees
o Boston Pilgrims
o Pittsburgh Pirates
o Brooklyn Excelsiors

7 > 30 Pts.
"Look Ma, No - ": At the 1991 Manila Southeast Asian Games, this Filipino swimmer became the instant center of attention when his swimming trunks fell off while coming out of the pool after winning his event. Who?

ANSWERS/ A26

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1 OF 35 WING VANS
ISUZU 10W WING VAN
1 OF 130 CLOSED VANS
ISUZU 8W CLOSED VAN, LATE MODEL
1 OF 170 DROPSIDE CARGOS
FUSO FIGHTER ALUM DROPSIDE
1 OF 170 DROPSIDE CARGOS
FUSO CANTER DOUBLE CAB DROPSIDE
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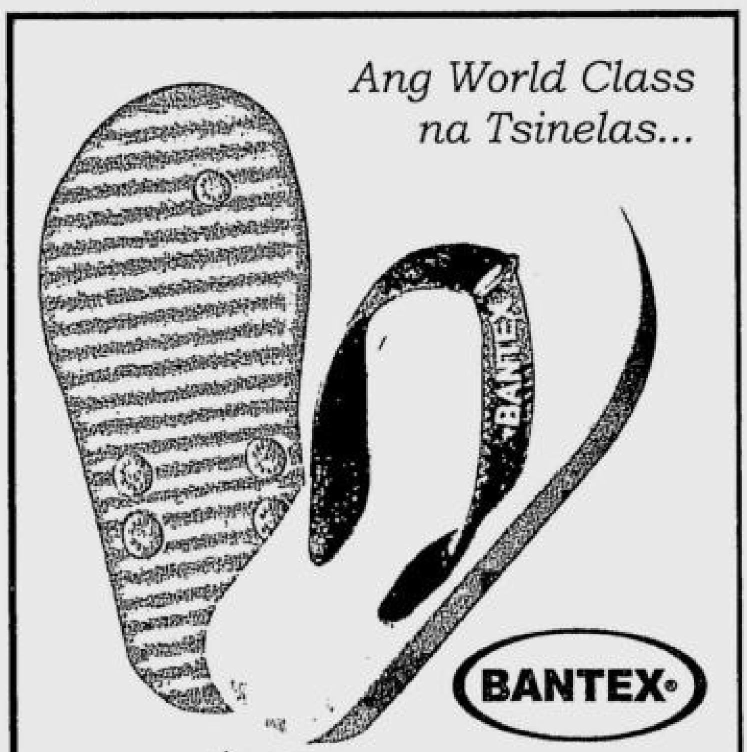

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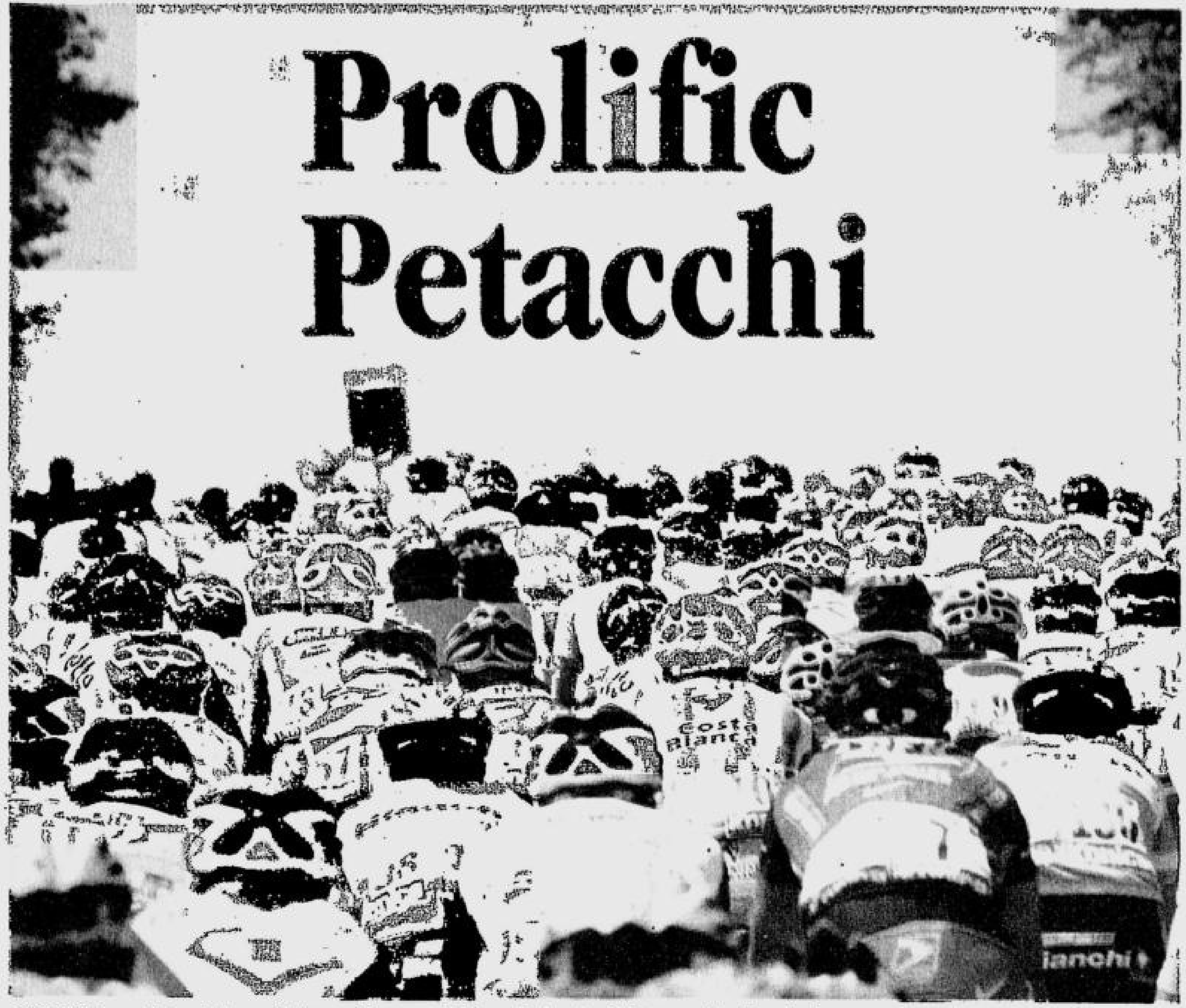
Prolific Petacchi



CYCLISTS negotiate a hilly road between Troyes and Nevers during the fifth stage of the Tour de France. AFP

Italian bags 3rd stage win as Armstrong lurks

NEVERS, France—Lance Armstrong's US Postal team returned to playing the waiting game here Thursday as the fifth stage of the Tour de France witnessed the continued rise of Italian sprint sensation Alessandro Petacchi.

Petacchi, a 29-year-old with Italian outfit Fassa Bortolo, took the emergency action of sitting behind another rider's wheel before flying over the finish line at over 60 kph to claim his third stage of the race.

After the French fdjeux.com team had done most of the lead-in work, Petacchi even had time to raise his arms before the finish line as he coasted past Estonian Jaan Kirsipuu and Australian Baden Cooke.

"I made my move from quite far back and started to sprint with about 200 meters to ride," explained Petacchi.

After his team disappeared on the final bend, Petacchi was left to find the quickest way to the finish alone.

Armstrong, meanwhile, began Thursday's stage having spent at least some of the previous night drinking champagne and toasting teammate Victor Hugo Pena, who on Wednesday became the first Colombian to pull on the yellow jersey, symbol of overall leadership.

Armstrong, who is gunning for a record-equalling fifth consecutive Tour title, is likely to allow Pena at least another day in the limelight before the race heads into the Alps for three days.

With one of his main rivals, Gilberto Simoni, now over three minutes adrift after Saeco's disastrous team time trial, Armstrong now only has Joseba Beloki and Jan Ullrich standing in his way.

Ullrich admits he's in improving form, and although the 1997 Tour winner said he only wants to win a stage here, he admitted it would be interesting to see Armstrong on the climbs this weekend.

"I'm feeling better as the stages go on," said Ullrich.

"Everything's gone very smoothly up until now. The time gaps between myself and Armstrong have never been so small.

"I feel quite ready for the Alps. I think it will be interesting to see how Armstrong rides."

The fifth stage of the centennial Tour de France featured a relatively docile 196.5-kilometer (121.52-mile) route from Troyes to Nevers on Thursday.

US Postal won its first ever Tour team time trial, sparking mass celebrations in the camp.

Armstrong, who seeks to tie Spain's Miguel Indurain as the only man to win cycling's premier event five straight times, crossed the line in 53rd place.

Petacchi, clinched the stage victory in 4 hours, 9 minutes, 47 seconds. He raced at an average speed of 47 kmh (29 mph) under scorching hot skies, as temperatures reached 32 degrees Celsius.

Saturday's trek to the ski resort of Morzine-Avoriaz is the first of three days of Alpine ascents. The riders face two mammoth climbs in the last 20 km of the stage. *AFP*

Hot Els sounds British Open warning with 64

ERNIE Els swings his putter on the 14th green. REUTERS

LUSS, Scotland—Ernie Els shot a seven-under-par 64 to take the lead at the Scottish Open on Thursday, with rain preventing the opening round from being completed.

Els, the defending British Open champion, led by two shots at Loch Lomond over England's David Howell, recovering from a broken arm last year and a shoulder injury this year. Howell shot a five-under-par 66.

Phillip Price continued the form that helped him win the European Open at The K Club on Sunday by shooting a 67 for third place. He was tied with three other golfers.

Colin Montgomerie shot a par-71, saying he "played fantastic but putted like an idiot."

Phil Mickelson, the world's eighth-ranked golfer, and former US Open champion Retief Goosen both shot 76.

Forty-five players were unable to finish the round because rain delayed the start of play by four hours.

Els, coming off a two-week break, said he wasn't looking forward to Thursday after hearing the weather forecast the night before. He parred his first three holes before the players were forced off, then birdied the first three when they returned.

The third of those birdies came at the 15th, his sixth after he started his round on the back nine. He holed from 27 feet there.

He birdied the 18th, his 9th, from 18 feet and added three more birdies on his second nine.

Mickelson double bogeyed the second and third holes. He made successive birdies on the 13th and 11th, then bogeyed two of his last three holes.

US amateur champion Ricky Barnes carded a one-under-par 70 with a birdie at his last hole, the 9th, after he snap-hooked his drive into a tree, from where it bounced back toward him.

John Daly had a triple bogey seven at the first hole as the rain bucketed down and bogeyed the second when he resumed. He finished with a three-over 74. *AP*

Hair-pulling in sumo Japan's latest scandal

TOKYO—Japan's venerable old sport of sumo wrestling is a pretty macho endeavor. Two big, burly guys pair off in a ring and try to either knock the other one down or out. To win, wrestlers slap their opponents, push them, throw them to the ground.

But pulling hair?

For the first time ever, a wrestler ranked at the very top of the sport has been disqualified for grabbing a fistful of his opponent's topknot and yanking him down to the dirt—and Japan is duly scandalized.

"Topknot grabber, unheard of," read a typically judgmental headline in the nation's largest newspaper, the *Yomiuri Shimbun*. Like several other major newspapers, it ran a picture of the unprecedented foul on its front page Friday.

"A first that has sullied the honor of sumo's highest rank," blared one tabloid.

At the center of the fracas is grand champion Asashoryu, a fiery, heavily muscled 22-year-old from Mongolia who is arguably the best wrestler in the ring today.

In the final bout of the day on Thursday, he was matched against a lower-ranking wrestler, Kyokushuzan, who is also from Mongolia. After a barrage of powerful thrusts that had his rival reeling, Asashoryu inexplicably grabbed Kyokushuzan's hair and yanked him down.

The judges immediately called him for the transgression and ruled Kyokushuzan the victor. *AP*

SPORTSWATCH

Checkmate kids fare well in US tourney

THEY failed to win medals, but the six Milo Checkmate kids returned yesterday from the 2003 World Chess Tournament held in Philadelphia, United States with their heads held high. Sixteen-year-old Emmanuel Emperado of St. James College posted 6.5 points with six wins, one draw and two losses after nine rounds of play and wound up in a tie for 8th to 12th places in a field of 176 players in the Under 2200 section. Nine-year-old Haridas Pascua of Mangatarem, Pangasinan, also scored 6.5 points with six wins, one draw and two losses and tied for 3rd to 4th places in the Unrated section, said Mila Emperado, president of Checkmate Phils. Twelve-year-old twin brothers Joshua Kirk and Justin Keith Ver finished with identical six points to cap the 7th and 8th places in the Unrated section. Julius Ceasar Marquez, 11, of Pulilan, Bulacan, and Jan Nigel Galan, 8, of Valenzuela City ended with 5.5 points each to occupy the 12th to 13th places in the field of 43 players in the Unrated section. The trip is a regular part of the Checkmate program to give its deserving students the chance to gain international exposure at an early age. This was the second time that outstanding Milo Checkmate students were sent to play in the World Open. Members of last year's delegation also made a good account of themselves. The players then were Emparado, Dexter Dacanay, Gabriel Layugan, brothers Emmanuel Eumir and Emmanuel Elijah Songcuya, Jaroz Felipe and Domingo Layugan.

Philracom race features novice jockeys

AN INVITATIONAL race for apprentice jockeys and the 3rd leg of the Philracom Imported Stakes Series for foreign-bred gallopers will cap the Philippine racing Club Inc.'s weeklong schedule tomorrow at the Santa Ana Park. Patterned after the annual Macau Apprentice Jockey Races, the local version of the featured invitational is exclusively for recent graduates of the Philippine Jockeys Academy who have been assigned to ride via lottery five evenly-matched gallopers over 1,600 meters. To be known as the "Sec. Emilia P. Boncodin Apprentice Jockeys' Cup," the highlight race carries a total guaranteed pot of P500,000 to be distributed to the top four placers. The winner of the race is guaranteed to receive P300,000. Set to do battle in the inaugural all-apprentice jockey race are five promising riders led by lady jockey Annalyn Reloto and fellow apprentice riders Joel Juan Francisco, Randy Lagrata, Alexander Gamboa and Francisco Tuazon, who will be riding horses Hezagonebabes, Tiny Giant Count Your Blessings, Princess Sophia and E-Mail, respectively , in the day's sixth race. Meanwhile, six foreign-bred gallopers are set to dispute the third leg of the Philracom Imported Stakes Series, a 1,500-meter contest that carries a total pot of P450,000. Heading the chase for the P270,000 top purse is You Know That (Aus), a 5-year-old bay mare, by Danzero out of Scotch And Coke, who is set to be ridden by Jeffril Zarate.

Suico climbs to No. 2 in WBC rankings

UNDEFEATED Randy "Koming Bato" Suico, the Orient Pacific Boxing Federation super featherweight champion has climbed to No. 2 in the latest ratings of the World Boxing Council. That put Suico in line for a world title shot against the winner of the August title fight between champion Sirimongkol Singmanassak of Thailand and No. 1 contender Jesus "El Matador" Chavez of Mexico. Suico moved up a notch from his No. 3 ranking after an impressive victory in a 10-round, non-title fight against former interim champion Kazunori "Karate Master" Fujita of Japan. Suico holds a 20-0 record with 17 knockouts. Suico's manager, well-known Japanese journalist Joe Koizumi said Suico hurt his hand in round two but put on "an impressive performance" against a tough opponent in a well-applauded, action-packed fight. The fight, entitled "The Quest Continues," will be featured on the new Viva Sports boxing show "The Main Event" to be telecast on Sundays from 12 noon to 2 p.m. over RPN 9.

Sorenstam chasing third straight victory

SORENSTAM AP

VIENNA, Ohio—Sweden's Annika Sorenstam is tired and Mi Hyun Kim of South Korea is sick, so luckily for the two stars, the Giant Eagle LPGA Classic is a 54-hole sprint instead of a four-day marathon. Kim, the defending champion, has not practiced much this week. Suffering from nausea and headaches, she has found it difficult to just get out of bed. "I feel very sick and bad. My condition is bad," she said Thursday. "I cannot hit the ball well." A reigning champion is usually busy making appearances and being pursued by reporters. That hasn't been the case for Kim because Sorenstam is in the field for the first time since 1998. "My English is bad, so I feel uncomfortable with media and TV," Kim said. "So it's OK." The Giant Eagle field includes the top three money-winners (Sorenstam, Grace Park and Se Ri Pak) and the winners of eight of the 12 LPGA events this season. It figures to be another challenge for Sorenstam, who has never seen the course before. "It will be a total surprise on the first tee," Sorenstam said. Sorenstam, of course, has spent the past month creating challenges for herself. First she took on the PGA Tour in the Colonial, missing the cut but proving her game isn't far behind the world's greatest male players. Smiling throughout the 36 holes and crying after finishing, she collected admiring fans around the world. A week later—with many expecting a letdown after the glut of emotions at the Colonial — she opened with a 62 in the first round at the Kellogg-Keebler Classic on the way to a three-shot victory. She made it two in a row by winning the LPGA Championship for the first time in her glittering career last week, holding off Park to win on the first playoff hole. It was Sorenstam's fifth major championship and 45th victory in her LPGA career. Sorenstam has disdained making an early appearance in suburban Youngstown, choosing instead to hang around her home in Orlando, Fla. While others were getting to know the course, she was shopping at the mall. *AP*

Anniversary 5-cocker draws 200 entries

MORE than 200 entries are expected when the "Anniversary 5-Cock Derby" of Pasay City Cockpit is held July 15, 17 and 19. "We decided to extend the competition to three days to accommodate all those who want to join, unlike before when we had to turn down participants in excess of 150 entries," Eric de la Rosa, one of Pasay Cockpit's pit managers, said. At least P1 million in guaranteed prize is at stake while entry fee is P15,000. The first five champions will get one 8-cu ft refrigerator each while the next champions and runner-up finishers will receive a 21-inch color TV. Each participant will get a washing machine as bonus. The fully air-conditioned Pasay City Cockpit has more than 100 cockhouses, music lounge, first class rest rooms, big parking area, OTBs and in-house restaurants. Submission of entries is on July 14, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. For details, contact 816-6750, 843-1890 and 843-1746.

Fund-raising derby in Las Piñas Aug. 25-27

THE "LPC Annual 6—Stag Derby" will be staged at the Las Piñas Cockpit on Aug. 25 and 27. Proceeds of the fund-raising derby will be donated to various projects of Las Piñas City Mayor Nene Aguilar. Screening of stags will start on the first week of August, to be held at the Las Piñas Cockpit every Saturday and Sunday, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. UCAP and NCA banded stags will be automatically accepted. During the matching of entries, stags will be bracketed into three categories according to age. Interested parties may contact 871-4343 and 871-4345 (Daisy) or 873-1040 (Las Piñas Cockpit). At stake is a cash prize of P1 million with an entry fee of P15,000. Minimum bet is P11,000. Aside form cash prizes at stake, the champions will also get three refrigerators. Derby sponsors are Pagcor Casino Filipino, Thunderbird Enertone and Lakpue Drug Inc.

SPORTS noodle

From page A25

ANSWERS: 1. False (She's Greek); 2. Tennis; 3. Tug on his shorts while playing defense; 4. Adidas (Adi Dassler); 5. England (from the Channel Island of Jersey); 6. Brooklyn Excelsiors (1860); 7. Leo Najera

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BUSINESS

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Meralco, Napocor finalize ₱20-B settlement

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MANILA Electric Co. and the state-owned National Power Corp. are expected to sign next week a detailed agreement on a P20-billion settlement on unmet electricity sales quotas, Meralco president Jesus Francisco said yesterday.

Francisco said in a telephone interview that judging from how the meeting of representatives from the two parties went last Thursday, an application for the Energy Regulatory Commision's (ERC) approval of the settlement details could also be filed next week.

In May, Meralco and Napocor agreed in principle that Meralco would pay Napocor P20 billion over a period of five years.

The penalty is for the volume of electricity that Meralco should have bought from Napocor but did not because the distributor started drawing supply from independent power producers.

Meralco officials explained that the agreement provided that the settlement amount would be passed on to end-consumers.

Yesterday, Francisco said that whether the P20 billion in penalties would be charged to consumers would depend on the ERC, "which would ensure that passing on the amount would still be in the interest of consumers."

Part of the agreement is the guarantee that the power plants of Meralco's IPPs would be allowed to run at their minimum contracted generating capacities.

Meralco's contracts with Quezon Power Philippines and First Gas Power Corp. provide that their power plants should run at about 85 percent of their installed capacity. All these firms are controlled by the Lopez family.

Quezon Power runs the 470-megawatt coal plant in Mauban town while First Gas owns two natural gas-fired plants with a combined capacity of 1,500 MW.

Last month, Meralco senior vice president for utility economics Ivanna dela Peña said that under the terms of the settlement, Meralco's IPPs running at contracted levels would mean a decrease of 25 centavos per kilowatt-hour based on March 2003 rates.

As for the Meralco penalties, Dela Peña said the P20 billion could mean an average increase of about 13 to 14 centavos per kWh.

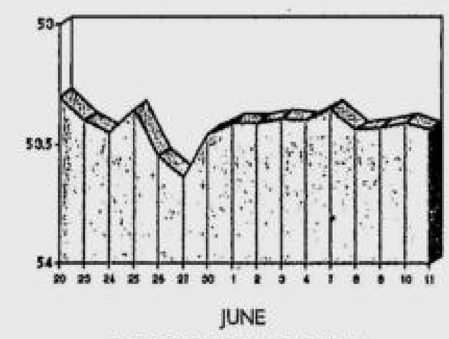
She explained that the P20 billion was a penalty for failing, between 2002 and 2004, to cover at least 3,600 MW of the firm's monthly demand with supply bought from Napocor.

But the consumer group People Opposed to Warrantless Electricity Rates disputed Meralco's claims, saying the settlement would actually mean an increase of 18 centavos per kilowatt-hour in customer's bills.

It added that their calculations were still conservative.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



JUNE

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 53.44 = $1

As of 5 p.m., July 11, 2003

¥ 117.76 = $1

As of 5 p.m., July 11, 2003

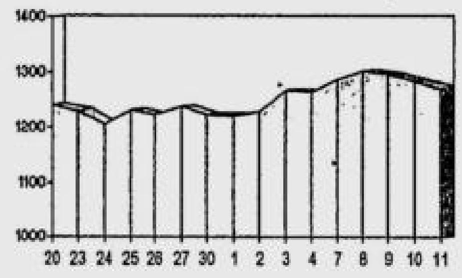
GOLD: **$344.40-344.80**

per ounce Hong Kong, July 11, 2003

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

JUNE JULY



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Stocks to end lower

SHARES ended 1.09 percent lower yesterday as players sold down select blue chips led by telecom leader PLDT to lock in gains from recent sessions.

Analysts said they expected further profit taking next week as investors wait for the announcements of first-half earnings results and the first-half economic growth figures.

"The market will enter a period of consolidation and may still likely fall. But I don't expect a steep drop since this is just a technical correction," said AB Capital economic analyst Jose Vistan.

The main index closed 1.09 percent or 14.02 points lower at 1,270.77, after touching its one-week low in mid-trade. It was the third straight day that the market ended weaker.

On the week, the market was up 0.51 percent and has risen 24.78 percent so far this year.

"Players are a bit cautious of second-quarter growth numbers. The latest bomb explosion in the south also gave investors the excuse to get out of the market," said Vistan, who saw the market's next support at 1,200 and resistance at 1,300.

Value turnover rose to P578.23 million from Thursday's P478.16 million. In the broader market, losers beat gainers 41 to 23 and there were 51 stocks unchanged.

"I think it was just profit-taking. The market was ripe for a correction," Citisecconline.com investment analyst Mark Alan Canizares told Dow Jones Newswires.

The market's decline was in step with that of other Asian markets yesterday.

Other active stocks included Globe Telecom, which fell P5, or 0.7 percent, to P690; San Miguel "B", down P1, or 1.6 percent, to P62; and Bank of the Philippine Islands, down P1, or 2.1 percent, to P47.50 on profit-taking.

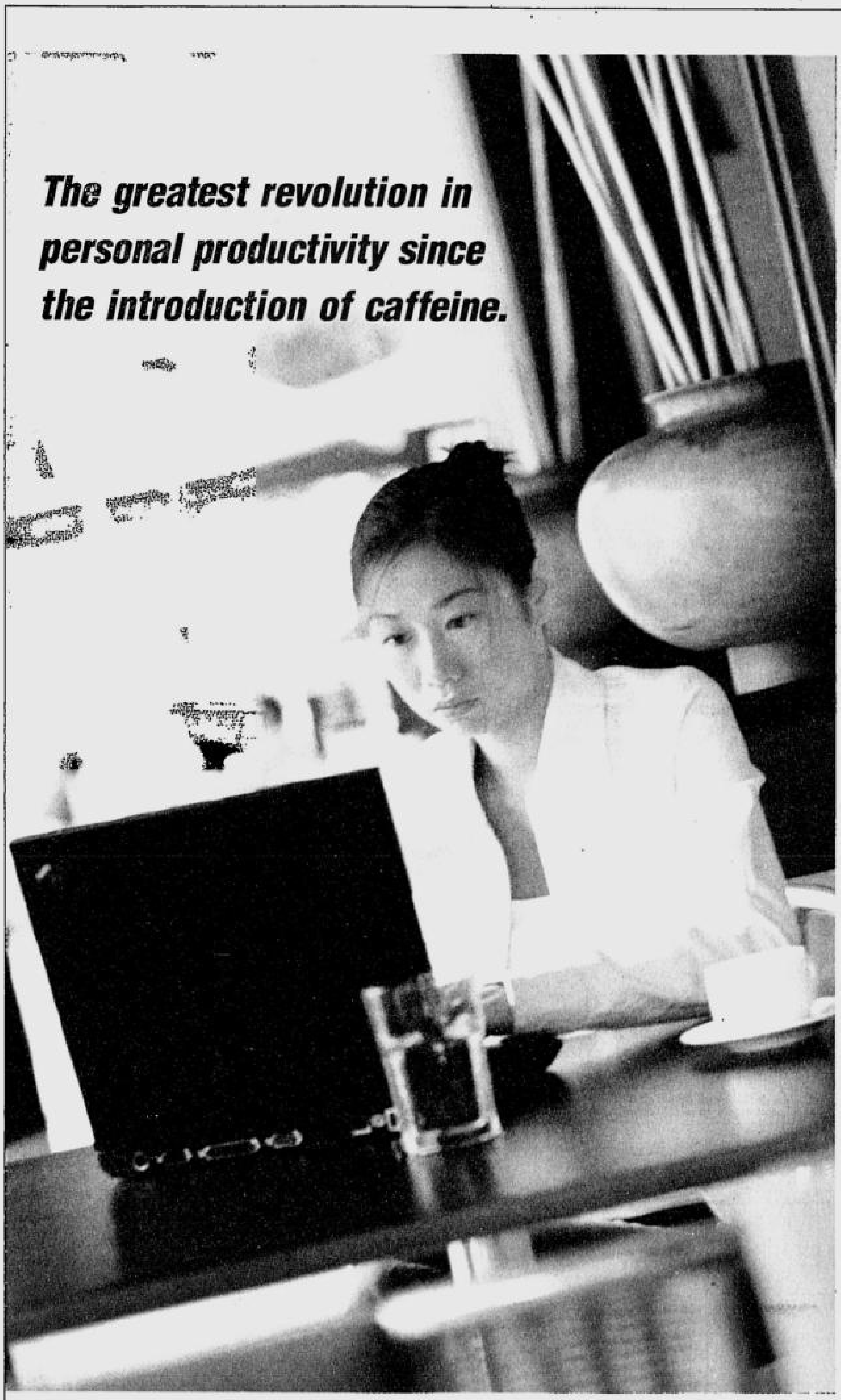
Reuters, AP

INTEREST RATES

July 11, 2003-
MART1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 11-Jul-03	MART1 10-Jul-03
1 Month	6.2683	6.2517
3 Months	6.3732	6.3554
6 Months	7.26	7.2533
1 Year	7.9129	7.8736
2 Years	8.8867	8.8817
3 Years	9.675	9.6817
4 Years	10.095	10.1067
5 Years	10.3067	10.3417
7 Years	11.2	11.2267
10 Years	11.472	11.4717
20 Years	11.99	11.995
25 Years	12.3833	12.3683

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG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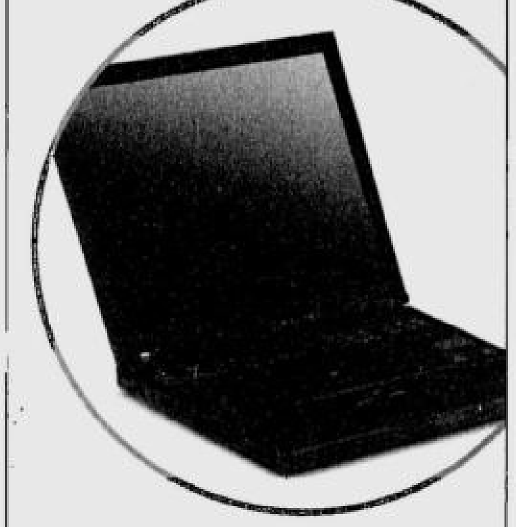

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A case is still a case

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

A FEW months from now, or this November, another justice of the Supreme Court will retire.

This early, certain groups are trying to gain media mileage. They apparently aim to get the attention of Gloriaetta. And what a way to do it!

Those different groups are using that time-tested way to get anybody's attention, which is, by attacking the person in media.

For one, they are accusing Gloriaetta of playing politics in appointing new justices to the Supreme Court. Hmm.

And everybody thought that, precisely, being the political leader of the land, as against a spiritual figure, the President has no choice but to always consider politics.

* * *

ANYWAY, those groups apparently do not like Gloriaetta's latest appointee, Justice Dante Tinga, who is the former three-term congressman of Taguig.

Nobody even said that, actually, Tinga spent most of his professional life practicing and teaching law.

To them, Gloriaetta is playing politics—meaning, come November, when another justice retires, she better appoint their "chicken." You know—*manok.*

* * *

TINGA tried his hand in politics once. That was the first democratic elections in our country after the fall of the Marcos dictatorship.

A staunch critic of the dictatorship, Tinga suddenly found himself in a political ring against a known Marcos supporter, the late Sen. Renato Cayetano.

He had no choice. The anti-Marcos groups at that time forced Tinga to run for congressman in his hometown Taguig against Cayetano.

After three terms, however, Tinga gave up politics altogether. Like any serious lawyer, his secret ambition actually was to become a Supreme Court justice.

During Tinga's oath-taking at the Palace last Wednesday, Gloriaetta told everybody that Tinga was actually her first choice.

See, it was not even the "chicken" of THE Firm. So how could they even say that Gloriaetta played politics? Simple—it's just for media mileage.

* * *

LUCKILY for Gloriaetta, Tinga was also the unanimous choice of the Judicial and Bar Council, the body which screens for the President the candidates to the Supreme Court.

And that never happened before—all of the seven members of the JBC voting for one man to recommend to the President.

Thus, I'm sure that Tinga is only too happy to become the newest Supreme Court justice. Immediately, as the new kid, he gets an overload of cases from the other justices.

As a tradition which is similar to fraternity initiation rites, a new justice gets treated to 20 hand-me-down cases from each of the 14 other justices.

Immediately, a new justice like Tinga gets 280 cases thrown on his lap as a welcome gift from the other justices.

It is a wonderful tradition which Tinga must be looking forward to doing unto the new justice this coming November.

* * *

TALK to lawyers, and they will all tell you that the Supreme Court is overloaded with cases, thanks to that "grave abuse of discretion" phrase in the Constitution.

If you accuse some lower courts of—what else—"grave abuse of discretion," you can bring your case up to the Supreme Court. This, as I said, is in the Constitution.

But a case is still a case, and if the Supreme Court does not take up your case, you can make the man named Band...Wrist Band...happy. You can file impeachment cases left and right against the Supreme Court justices.

And that is the same idea, that thing called "grave abuse of discretion," which every lawyer uses to force the Supreme Court to decide on business deals.

But to say that those deals are the only reason why various groups are willing to fight to death to get their "chicken" to the Supreme Court, is quite unfair. It is just one of the reasons.

* * *

ANYWAY, that's why you have all those controversial cases which made the Supreme Court famous.

They include those on the Manila Hotel, Piatco, Jancom, Cyberbay, and the up and coming Maysilo Estate.

In the Maysilo Estate case, the government is trying to cancel what it alleged to be fake land titles covering huge land holdings in Malabon, Caloocan and Quezon City.

Various real estate firms, with huge land holdings, are watching the case in the Supreme Court. If the government loses the case, they also lose their land.

A top law firm, in fact, already did a headcount of the Supreme Court, dividing between those justices who are for or against the government's position.

Really, must it come to that—a headcount of the justices for or against you? But how do the lawyers know which is which?

Whatever their technique, it is most certainly unfair to the Supreme Court. It means that, in the Supreme Court, cases can be "walked." You know—*lakad.*

* * *

UNKNOWN to many, myself included, Clark Development Corp., or CDC, already completed the master plan and feasibility study for an international airport.

It is called the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport, or DMIA for short, named after the late former President, who happens to be the father of Gloriaetta.

The final step, of course, is the approval of the Neda, the National Economic and Development Authority, which reviews every major project such as an airport.

Oh, and by the way, the only other thing is...well, money. CDC also needs the approval of the financier in Japan.

That is the so-called JBIC, or the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

Why JBIC you say? Well, it's a loan that's almost a gift. Look at the terms: one-percent yearly interest, payable in 40 years, with 10-year grace period.

In other words, it's the kind of loan which you only get from a bank which is actually out to lose money on the loan.

* * *

ANYWAY, the development of Clark is also getting a big push from Henry Sy's SM Prime Holdings, which is building a mall near the airport.

Thus you have an international airport near a mall. Wow! Not only that, the airport can handle something like 6 million passengers a year. Double wow! For Henry Sy.

Anyway, the master plan includes access to a train system, called the North Rail, and the expressway to the Subic duty-free zone.

The plan also estimates that the airport will be completed in seven years.

I think we need the project. For all you know, the Piatco controversy will not yet have been resolved by the time DMIA is completed.

Creditors back Steelcorp rehab

STEEL Corporation of the Philippines (Steelcorp), the country's biggest producer of coated flat steel products, announced yesterday that its debt-restructuring program would soon be set in motion, ending two years of negotiations with its creditors.

The debt-restructuring program is being spearheaded by Equitable PCI Bank as lead entity for Steelcorp's syndicate of creditors and was based on a due-diligence review by Pricewaterhouse Cooper on Steelcorp's business plan and financial projections.

Steelcorp said its debt-restructuring plan was supported by majority of the creditors.

The creditors' support will enable the company to pursue more aggressive operational and marketing strategies to strengthen its dominance in the local galvanizing industry to enhance business viability.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 11, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5	5	4.9	4.9	1,473,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	19	19.5	19	19.5	187,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	48	48	47.5	47.5	402,200
China Banking Corp.	750	760	750	755	3,010
Citystate Savings Bank	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	33.5	33.5	33	33.5	151,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30.5	31	30.5	31	278,200
Phil. Bank of Comm. A	95	95	95	95	500
Philippine National Bank	24.5	25	24.5	25	18,200
Phil. Savings Bank	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	100
Security Bank Corp.	16.5	17	16	17	253,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	20.75	20.75	20.75	20.75	10,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.42	1.44	1.42	1.42	2,001,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	120	199	120	199	290
Manulife Financial Corp.	1445	1445	1445	1445	100
Pci Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	100,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1035	1055	1035	1055	3,670
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21.25	21.5	20.5	21.25	47,300
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	310,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	695	695	685	690	75,620
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.045	0.045	0.044	0.045	3,600,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.025	0.025	0.024	0.024	2,000,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.49	0.54	0.48	0.54	11,230,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	40,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	565	570	555	555	389,530
Ivantage Corp.	0.43	0.45	0.43	0.45	210,000
Philweb Corp.	0.014	0.015	0.014	0.015	32,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	11.75	12	11.25	12	1,304,000
Manila Electric Co. B	17.5	18.25	17.5	18	1,793,000
Petron Corp.	2.08	2.08	2.06	2.08	4,951,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	20,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	100,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.95	2.95	2.85	2.9	1,276,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	450,000
Negros Navigation Co.Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	100,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	360,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	5,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	8,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.79	0.79	60,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.5	17.75	17.5	17.5	348,800
RFM Corp.	0.73	0.74	0.73	0.74	70,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	100,000
San Miguel Corp. A	53.5	54	53.5	54	95,100
San Miguel Corp. B	62.5	62.5	61.5	62	327,900
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	10,000
Ayala Corp.	4.75	4.8	4.75	4.75	4,552,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	70,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.7	2.75	2.65	2.7	408,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.035	0.036	0.035	0.036	5,400,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	370,000
APC Group Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	11,500,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.007	0.0065	0.007	107,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.86	1.88	1.82	1.88	180,000
ATR Kim Eng Fin. Corp.	2	2.5	2	2.5	32,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	30,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.6	0.62	0.59	0.62	10,450,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	400,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.215	0.22	0.21	0.22	1,420,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.08	1.1	1.06	1.08	340,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	15	15.25	14.5	15.25	1,175,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.08	0.085	0.08	0.085	400,000
Ionics Inc.	1.06	1.42	1.06	1.36	9,645,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.68	1.68	1.66	1.66	86,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	80,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.73	0.73	0.71	0.71	2,570,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.31	0.33	8,910,000
Music Corp.	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.38	7,790,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	20,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	210,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.0625	0.08	0.0625	0.08	2,500,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	50,000
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	0.95	0.95	0.94	0.94	150,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.6	4,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	100,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15.5	15.5	14.5	14.75	630,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.59	0.61	0.59	0.61	6,340,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	790,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	50,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.4	130,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	21	21.5	20.5	21.5	228,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	3,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	2,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10	10	10	10	2,000
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.0024	0.0024	0.0022	0.0024	70,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	5.1	5.3	5.1	5.3	26,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.4	3,021,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	400,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	80,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.19	0.2	0.19	0.2	13,120,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.235	0.245	0.235	0.245	9,400,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.14	1.14	1.1	1.12	9,570,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.18	2.18	2.16	2.18	300,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.13	0.155	0.13	0.155	760,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	200,000
Primex Corp.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	20,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2	2	2	2	70,000
SM Development Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	53,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6	6.1	6	6.1	3,457,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0042	0.0044	0.0042	0.0042	278,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	500,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	36,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	2,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	550,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	210,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.013	9,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	19,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	68,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	110,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.01	19,800,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	4,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	120,000

DISCLOSURES

MANILA Broadcasting Co. moved its annual stockholders' meeting to Sept. 11.

* * *

ELECTED directors of ATN Holdings Inc. were Arsenio Ng, Mario Mina, Yu Ting Guan, Patrick Caoile, Bonifacio Choa, Hyland Si, Chee Choong Cheah, Roberto Abaya, Hilario Ng, Jose Corpuz Jr. and Santos Cejoco.

* * *

ELECTED directors of Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc. were Tomas Alcantara, Editha Alcantara, Alejandro Alcantara, Carlos Dominguez, Honorio Poblador III, Tirso Santillan Jr., Ramon Diokno, Leandro Javier, Paulino Garcia Jr., Jose Ben Laraya and Bienvenido Tan III. Also, Diokno and Ireneo Gacad Jr. were designated corporate information/compliance officers of the company.

* * *

ELECTED directors of Ebecom Holdings Inc. were Ferdinand Domingo, Balligi Fonacier, Celso Modina, Peter Francis Zagala, Maritess Calzado, Francis Orena, Rommel Santiago, Joel Banares, Rolando Castro, Rodrigo Castelo and Joven Pulido. Nemesio Briones was appointed compliance officer while Rolando Castro was named internal auditor under the company's manual on corporate governance. Also, the company will be changing its name to Aries Prime Resources Inc. ***Compiled by Maricar Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

July 11, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.878812	1.000000	53.416000
Japan	Yen	0.007464	0.008493	0.453700
United Kingdom	Pound	1.436418	1.634500	87.308500
Hongkong	Dollar	0.112686	0.128225	6.849300
Switzerland	Franc	0.645616	0.734646	39.241900
Canada	Dollar	0.635577	0.723223	38.631700
Singapore	Dollar	0.501461	0.570613	30.479900
Australia	Dollar	0.576497	0.655996	35.040700
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.331128	2.652590	141.690700
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.234344	0.266660	14.243900
Brunei	Dollar	0.500035	0.568990	30.393200
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000107	0.000122	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.021105	0.024015	1.282800
UAE	Dirham	0.239269	0.272264	14.543300
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.137900	60.782100
Argentina	Peso	0.317261	0.361011	19.283800
Brazil	Real	0.303562	0.345423	18.451100
Denmark	Kroner	0.134539	0.153092	8.177600
India	Rupee	0.019059	0.021687	1.158400
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.231297	0.263193	14.058700
Mexico	New Peso	0.084323	0.095951	5.125300
New Zealand	Dollar	0.519208	0.590807	31.558500
Norway	Kroner	0.120265	0.136849	7.309900
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015212	0.017310	0.924600
South Africa	Rand	0.117158	0.133314	7.121100
Korea	Won	0.000746	0.000849	0.045400
Sweden	Kroner	0.109332	0.124409	6.645400
Syria	Pound	0.020925	0.023810	1.271800
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025734	0.029283	1.564200
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000551	0.000627	0.033500

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ANNOUNCEMENT

To improve our communication
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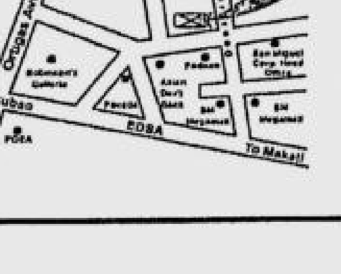
   • One completed landscaped building foundations with Architect plans for 3 B/R house. PRICE: Foundations P1.5M plus 500 sq. mtrs. lot at P6000 sq. mtrs.
   • Three clear title lots 750/990/1400 sq. mtrs. P6000 sq. mtrs.

All to sell individually or at a very negotiable "total package deal"

2. • Three x 1000 sq. mtrs. clear title lots PRICE P6000 sq. mtrs.
3. • Prime 6 hectares development block with surveyors plans for a 77 lot subdivision. Special "quick sale" at P1000 sq. mtrs.

For complete details, call Brian at 0917-2558135 or e-mail inglis_brian@hotmail.com



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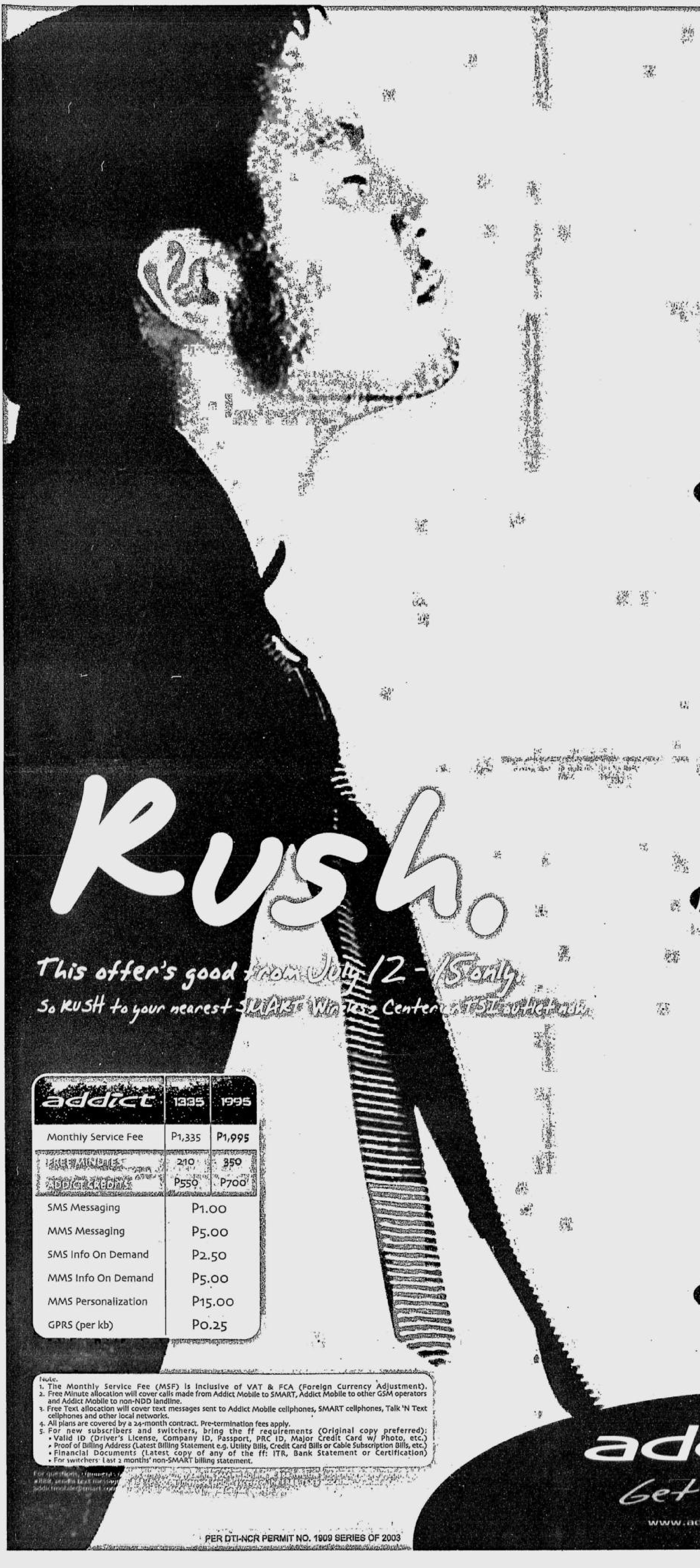

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   - Proof of Billing Address (Latest Billing Statement e.g. Utility Bills, Credit Card Bills or Cable Subscription Bills, etc.)
   - Financial Documents (Latest copy of any of the ff: ITR, Bank Statement or Certification)
   - For switchers: Last 2 months' non-SMART billing statement.

For questions, [illegible]

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My warmest congratulations to **SIAM MARIWASA TOTO PHILIPPINES** on the occasion of its *Awarding* as the *MOST OUTSTANDING BATHROOM COLLECTION BRAND* in the 18th Annual National Consumer Excellence Awards.

This award stands testament to your organization's commendable effort to raise the standard of the bathroom products manufacturing in the country. This recognition is doubly significant in light of our quest to make our products truly competitive in the global market and our enduring thrust to spur sustainable economic development for the country.

Together, let us build a robust manufacturing industry as we stand united in forging a strong and stable Philippine Republic.

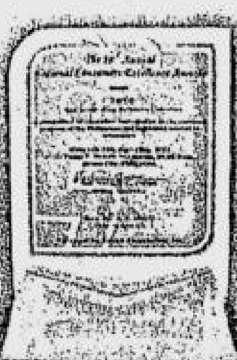
Mabuhay tayong lahat!

GMArroyo
Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's
President of the Philippines

The Consumers Have Spoken.

The 18th Annual National Consumers Excellence Awards

Has Chosen



TOTO

as this year's awardee for the

Most Outstanding Bathroom Collection Brand Award

SIAM MARIWASA TOTO: 86 years of Commitment to Total Perfection

Since our founding in 1917, in Kitakyushu City in Japan, we've been in the forefront of innovations that have revolutionized the way people live their lives the world over. For the past 86 years, our unwavering faith and support for continuous R & D, use of only the finest materials, strict compliance with the highest quality control standards and the expertise of our dedicated workforce has consistently rewarded us with recognition from various consumer and industrial award giving and certifying bodies worldwide. The most recent of which is the Annual National Consumers Excellence Awards. Still, our main goal is to provide every Filipino with quality bathroom products that straddle the thin line between art and technology; superior products that perfectly fit and enhance everyone's lifestyle because at TOTO we make superiority a way of life.

ANCEA's MOST OUTSTANDING BATHROOM COLLECTION BRAND AWARD

reaffirms TOTO's continuing drive to pursue perfection at all aspects of production and corporate organization. A commitment reflected in our extensive collection of bathroom wares designed to give the highest level of comfort, durability and topnotch performance at par with the world's best.

The 18th Annual National Consumers Excellence Awards

The Annual National Consumer's Excellence Award (ANCEA) is a project of the PARANGAL NG BAYAN FOUNDATION, INC., a non-stock, non-profit organization registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and now chaired by socio-civic leader Sis. Vickie C. Dizon. This is the country's biggest organization which gives due recognition to outstanding Filipinos and world-class achievers from various fields of endeavor in commemoration of the National Achievers Month Celebration every March. The event also confers a special tribute to outstanding companies / manufacturers, products and services that have made excellent contributions in shaping the well-being of the Philippine market.

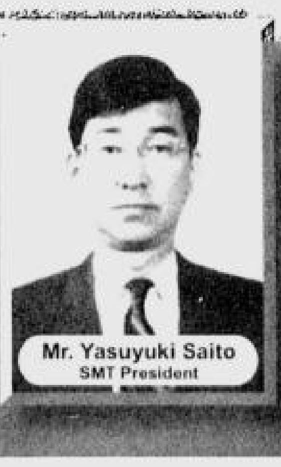
A Spectacle of Excellence

The event was held last May 24, 2003 (Saturday), 5 pm at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, 4/F, Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation (RCBC) Plaza, Yuchengco Tower cor. Ayala & Sen. Gil Puyat (formerly Buendia) Avenue Makati City with a delayed TELECAST over RPN Channel 9 on July 12, 2003 (Saturday) between 11:00 p.m. and 1:00 a.m.

The awarding ceremony was attended by prominent personalities from the entertainment industry, business, social, socio-civic sectors and well-known professionals in the country.

CEO'S REMARKS

In behalf of **SIAM MARIWASA TOTO, INC.**, I would like to thank Parangal ng Bayan Foundation Inc. for conferring us the Most Outstanding Bathroom Collection Brand Award in the recently concluded 18th Annual National Consumers Excellence Awards. Rest assured that we will not rest on this distinction, and instead, focus more on providing every Filipino with the best quality bathroom products in the same honored tradition of excellence and perfection that has made **SIAM MARIWASA TOTO, INC.** a household name for many years now.



Mr. Yasuyuki Saito
SMT President

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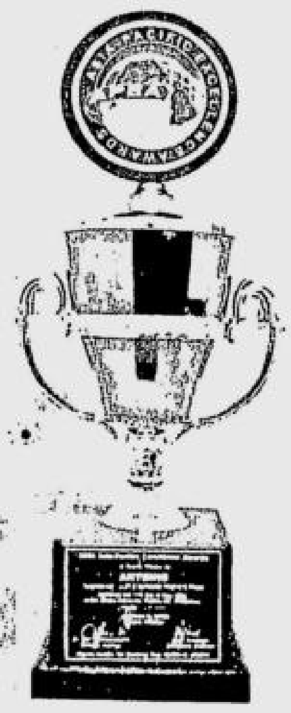
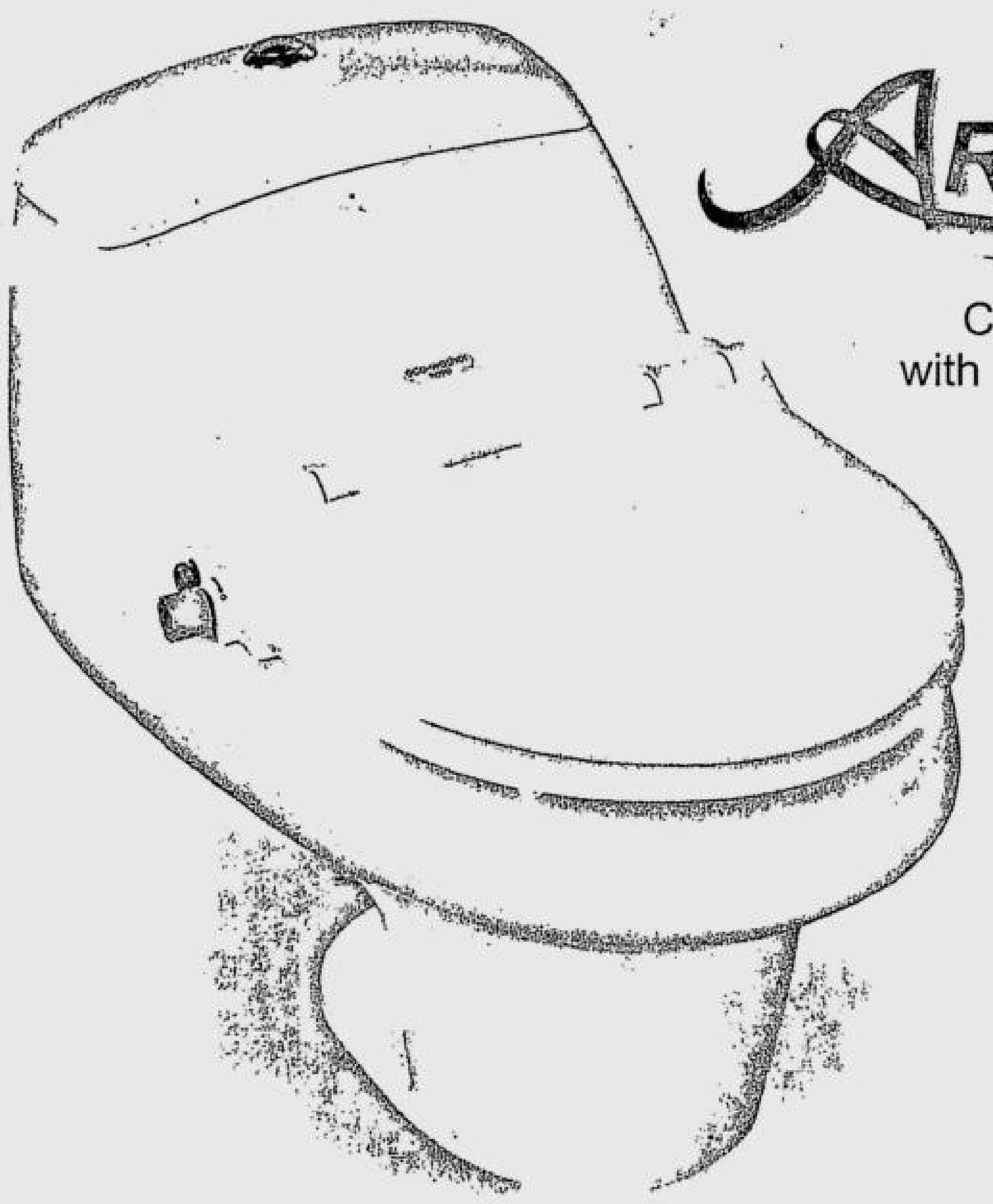


ASIA-PACIFIC EXCELLENCE AWARDEE

OUTSTANDING TOILET & BATHROOM PRODUCT



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What is the Asia Pacific Excellence Awards?

The Annual Asia Pacific Awards is the Grand Annual Tribute to Top Consumer Products, Services, Manufacturers & Companies based in any of the Countries within the Asia-Pacific Region which has served the well being of the general public. The awards are conferred by the Asia-Pacific Awards Council and the National Consumer Affairs Foundation.

Now on its 10th year, the Asia Pacific Excellence Awards, also confers recognition to outstanding achievers in business, public service, sports and other major professional fields based in the Philippines and any of the countries within the Asia Pacific Region since 1993.

The event also serves as the "Grand Gathering" of the Past Awardees of the Ramon Magsaysay (RM) Asian Awards, FAMAS Awards, Gintong Ina & Ama Awards, TOYM Awards, Agora Awards, Golden Europe Awards, Consumers Excellence Awards, Consumers Quality Awards and other prestigious Asia-Pacific award-giving organizations.

ARTEMIS: LIVING UP TO SIAM MARIWASA TOTO's LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE

From the sheer grace and beauty of the lines and exquisite curves right down to its uncompromising functionality, Artemis truly lives up to the ideals of a SIAM MARIWASA TOTO, INC. product: Sophisticated looks combined with topnotch level performance. No wonder it has been making a big splash here and abroad. Proof perfect that at SMT we take the motto "we make superiority a way of life" seriously. It's our legacy to our consumers and it's a legacy we intend to keep.

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Sugar production seen hitting 30-year high

THE PHILIPPINES, a net sugar importer since 1993, will not buy the sweetener from offshore markets this year and the next, thanks to an expected bumper crop which may turn the country into an exporter by 2005, a senior official said on Friday.

"We may have seen the last of our imports," James Ledesma, administrator of state agency Sugar Regulatory Administration, said in an interview.

He said he expected raw sugar output in crop year 2003/2004 (Sept./Aug.) to increase 5 percent to 2.27 million tons from the estimated 2.16 million in the current crop year.

Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo separately told a news conference he expected raw sugar output in the current crop year to hit 2.19 million tons, the highest in 30 years.

Ledesma attributed the rise in this crop year's output to the increasing use of higher-yielding cane varieties developed by private and government plant breeders. He said the 2003/2004 estimate was based on standing crop and discussions with farmers.

"I'm saying at this time, a 5-percent increase is attainable," he said, adding that farmers had initially thought the El Niño weather pattern would affect the 2003/2004 crop.

"Farmers said rains at night and sunshine during the day in many areas in recent weeks are doing great wonders for the crop."

Meteorologists have said the dry spell caused by the El Niño weather pattern starting in the last quarter last year faded in late May this year.

With prospects of a further increase in harvest in the next crop year, Ledesma said local farmers have to prepare for a possible return in the world export market in the next two years.

The world's third- or fourth-largest exporter of sugar in the mid 1970s, the Philippines became a net importer in 1993 because of a reduction of its export quota to the United States and a drop in productivity and the area planted to sugar.

The United States has reduced its sugar import quota to the Philippines, once its colony, from nearly one million tons in the 1970s to 137,000 tons in the 2002/2003 crop year.

"We will not make exportable surplus to the world market yet next year," Ledesma said, adding that the surplus would be used as buffer stocks.

But by 2005, he said the country may create a new market for its surplus sugar or export in the world market and compete with other sugar producers in the region, such as Thailand and Australia.

"We have to gear ourselves on the probability of exporting to the world market," Ledesma said.

Domestic demand for sugar was placed at about two million in this crop year and exports of about 137,000 tons to the United States at prices higher compared with world market prices.

The country imported 107,000 tons of sugar last year and 172,000 tons in 2001 to cover gaps in demand and supply. *Reuters*

Franchising event to showcase best homegrown businesses

THE SECOND Filipino Franchise Show, the country's premier homegrown franchising event, kicks off to an exciting start on July 25 and will run until July 27 at Megatrade Hall 2 of SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. The event will showcase a bevy of the most successful homegrown franchise opportunities in the country today.

While those in the food business are expected to attract a great deal of attention, the nonfood or service sector (including laundry shops, hair salons and foot care services), will be ready to entertain inquiries from prospective business partners and customers.

Among these service-oriented companies are long-running firms whose business concepts have been handed down from one generation to the next and which have continued expanding aggressively and responsibly. These include Metropole Laundry & Dry Cleaners, Reyes Haircutters and Sacred Heart School. Their common denominator: all hailed from a clan with an entrepreneurial streak and they all have time-tested and proven offerings. All of them will also be seen at the 2nd Filipino Franchise Show.

Metropole

In the laundromat business, Metropole Laundry & Dry Cleaners Inc., aside from being the most stable in the field, is also one of the most successful homegrown franchising success stories.

It began in 1940, when the late Gov. Dominador S. Asis Sr., tagged as "The Filipino Laundryman," offered to personally hand wash and iron the clothes of American soldiers. On the suggestion of a regular American customer, Asis bought US surplus trailer-mounted laundry equipment from departing American forces four years later. That started the first mechanized commercial laundry in the country.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL

FROM a small school in Malabon, Sacred Heart School now boasts of its growing franchise network.

The business prospered into a world class laundry facility that also provides wet laundry and drycleaning services to popular brands of garments for export. On Jan. 28, 1993, Metropole Laundry & Dry-Cleaners was incorporated, with its operations placed under the able management of the third generation of laundrymen.

It was in 1998 that Metropole ventured into franchising. It now has 24 company-owned stores and 14 franchised branches in Metro Manila. Jojo Asis said franchising could guarantee personalized care to customers and also improve quality of service by inviting stakeholders with long and vast experience in different aspects of running a business.

Reyes Haircutters

Reyes Haircutters is another homegrown business experiencing brisk business. It revolutionized the franchise system by considering its franchisees as partners. The Filipino family salon is a price innovator, offering quality salon services at very affordable prices.

Owned and operated by Reyes Hair Co. International Inc., Reyes Haircutters was established in 1991 by Les Reyes, the company's president and CEO who comes from the clan of Reyes hairdressers, led by matriarch Mommy Ada of Ada's Beauty Salon in the early '60s and then by Ricky Reyes. Les opened his own roster of salons in 1991, independent of the Ricky Reyes Salon, which became Reyes Haircutters in June of 1999.

METROPOLE
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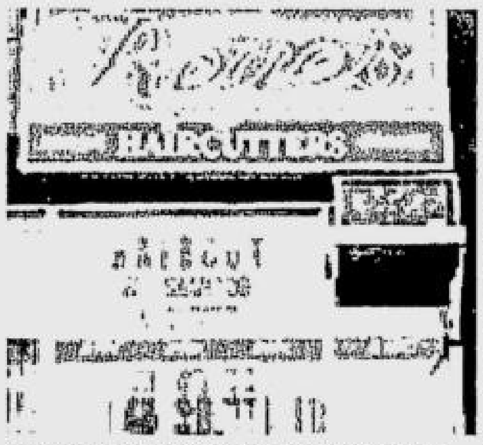
METROPOLE Laundy & Dry Cleaning: Pioneer in laundromat business in the country



REYES Haircutters: Salon services at very affordable prices

Franchising started in January 2001 with a branch in Caloocan. To date, the company has 15 company-owned branches, 123 existing franchise operations in the country, plus 10 under construction, and another 30 reserved sites. The total franchise package cost ranges from P700,000 to P1.2 million.

Sacred Heart School

A pioneer in preschool franchising in the Philippines, Sacred Heart School is a fitting example of how motherhood and the molding or education of young minds can be blended for entrepreneurial success. Sacred Heart School may also be credited for the introduction in 1991 of the Japanese Kumon method of teaching math and reading in the Philippines.

Sacred Heart School started as a small school in Malabon 35 years ago. School owner and directress Ma. Rosario Tambunting-Juan, herself a mother, had always believed in nurturing a child's ability by giving him an appropriate environment to develop his own potential. She decided to take the personal challenge of being surrogate mother to young kids of working mothers, and put up her own pre-school. Rowena Matti, Rosario's daughter, now manages the growing Sacred Heart School franchise network.

Sacred Heart is also the first pre-school to successfully operate a children's activity center at a mall. In time, Sacred Heart School joined the homegrown franchising arena. Sacred Heart now has nine franchised units located in strategic Metro Manila and provincial areas.

Sacred Heart School makes available a developmental or age-appropriate and progressive learning approach to kids everywhere. Franchised school operators must have both business management skills, love for children, and a passion to educate. Since the franchisor handles the nitty-gritty of the business—research and development, marketing, training and hiring, policy-making and accounting—franchisees are left with much time to focus on the important task of educating.

The three companies will join several others in sharing their experiences and views during the 2nd Filipino Franchise Show. They will also be on the lookout for the right people who may want to share in their success. For these and other companies, it all boils down to enjoying what you are doing and excelling in it.

Call center industry keeps growth target

By Michelle V. Remo

THE CALL center sector has shrugged off fears that its growth might be hampered by the emergence of China as a preferred site for call center investments in the light of the Chinese government's program to develop English proficiency in a bid to grab a major share of the market.

China is aggressively implementing an English proficiency training program in the hope of boosting its call center industry and strongly compete against major players, such as India and the Philippines.

According to Rainerio Borja, chair of the Contact Federation of the Philippines, the industry is sticking to its 70- to 100-percent growth target for this year despite insinuations that stiffer competition in the global arena would drive investors to locating to other countries. He expressed confidence that the local call center business would remain one of the major revenue contributors to the government.

"I am estimating that it will take China another eight to 10 years before it gains the English communications skills necessary to be a real world player in the outsourcing contact center arena," said Borja in an e-mail to the INQUIRER. He admitted, however, that China was moving aggressively toward becoming a hub of call centers.

Borja estimated that the local call center industry was contributing between $180 million and $200 million in revenue every year. The industry employs about 25,000 employees.

He said the country's call center industry ranks second to India in terms of number of employed agents. In terms of other areas, such as quality of communication skills and of telecommunications infrastructure, the country ranks No. 1 according to surveys, said Borja.

Borja dismissed reports the local call center industry was in danger of losing its post in the global call center scene due to the competition posed by China.

Recent reports quoted a source from the telecommunications infrastructure sector as saying the robust performance of the country's call center industry might only be temporary with the emergence of China as a call center hub and with India strengthening its manpower resource.

In a related development, Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II yesterday welcomed the initiative of Avaya Solutions in organizing possible foreign investors for a tour in the country's call centers.

The program, called the Global Connect Call Center Tour, was initiated to encourage more investors to enter into the country's call center industry.

Avaya designs, builds and manages communications networks for more than 1 million businesses worldwide, including 90 percent of the Fortune 500 companies.

"The government is committed to support such investments. We have laid out an attractive incentive scheme while the private sector has also initiated its own moves to make the IT and BPO (business process outsourcing) sector highly competitive," said Roxas in a statement.

Philips secures $100-M syndicated loan

PHILIPS Semiconductor Philippines Inc., a unit of Netherlands-based electronics giant Royal Philips, yesterday signed a five-year $100-million syndicated loan agreement.

"The amount would be used for general corporate purposes," ING Bank N.V., the sole mandated arranger of and book runner for the facility, said in a statement.

The Dutch bank said the facility was oversubscribed and the other banks that subscribed in the capacity of arranger included Bank of China, HSBC, Standard Chartered, and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp.

In the Philippines, the Philips group directly employs 6,000 Filipinos. Its operations include two semiconductor plants in Laguna, a consumer electronics facility in Las Piñas, and a commercial office in Makati.

The semiconductor plants produce power transistors, modules, metal can, RF transistors and diodes, and integrated circuits.

Royal Philips Electronics of the Netherlands is one of the biggest electronics companies in the world and Europe's largest with sales of 31.8 billion euros in 2002. It is a global leader in color television sets, lighting, electric shavers, medical diagnostic imaging and patient monitoring and one-chip TV products.

Philips is quoted on the New York Stock Exchange, London, Amsterdam and other stock exchanges.

Banks' FCDU loans down 8% in 1st quarter

By Clarissa S. Batino

FOREIGN currency loans extended by local banks dropped 8 percent to $4.85 billion in the first quarter of the year, from the year-ago level of P5.27 billion.

Data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed that compared with the $4.9 billion registered in the last quarter of 2002, the banks' foreign currency deposit unit or FCDU loans in the first quarter slid by $47 million.

The banks' dollar lending has contracted significantly in the last five years even as FCDU deposits were steady at $13.046 billion, indicating a stable capital inflow. Dollar deposits complement the country's about $16 billion in gross international reserves during the period.

The banks' FCDUs, said the central bank, consisted largely of deposits and savings of the country's millions of overseas workers.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the FCDU loans had been steadily declining in the last five years as local borrowers shifted away from dollar loans in favor of cheaper peso borrowings to minimize risks and take advantage of the declining interest rates.

In March, the peso fell to a historic low of 55.09 to a dollar, increasing the risks in tapping foreign currency-denominated loans. Yesterday, the peso closed at 53.44 to $1 from 53.41 last Thursday.

In contrast, peso loans of commercial banks posted a 2-percent increase in the first quarter to P1.198 trillion (roughly about $22.4 billion). Rates on peso loans during the period ranged from 9 to 11 percent while those on foreign currencies averaged at 3.25 percent.

Dollar loans peaked at $11.9 billion in the second quarter of 1997 but as the Asian financial crisis adversely affected the foreign exchange rate, foreign currency loans dropped to $7.9 billion in 1998 and to $7.29 billion in 1999.

In 2000, loans from the banks' FCDUs shrunk to $6.2 billion and to $5.5 billion in 2001.

Dollar deposits, however, have remained stable from $14.5 billion in 1997 to about $13.046 billion in the first three months of the year.

In the first quarter, the loans-to-deposits ratio, based on the central bank's computations, went up to 38.3 percent from 36.9 percent in December.

Zambales seeks establishment of special economic zone

IBA, Zambales—The provincial board has asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to support the establishment of a Southern Zambales Special Economic Zone (SZSEZ) to spur economic growth in the province.

The board said the proposed economic zone would cover the towns of Subic, San Antonio, Castillejos and San Marcelino.

Gov. Vicente Magsaysay said the provincial government needed to create opportunities for local and foreign investors to set up businesses in southern Zambales to benefit residents in the area.

"We have to devise a scheme that will show the capability and potentials of the four towns in becoming engines and catalysts of growth for Zambales," he said.

But Magsaysay said Proclamation No. 532, which established the Subic Bay Special Economic and Freeport Zone, should be amended to exclude the towns of Subic, San Antonio and portions of Castillejos and Zambales from its coverage.

Amending the proclamation would avoid problems when another economic zone is created from towns covering an existing ecozone.

The proposed site of the SZEZ covers 41,429 hectares, but parts of it are covered by the Subic freeport zone.

Vice Gov. Ramon Lacbain II said he had asked Wilhelm Ortaliz, deputy director general of the Philippine Economic Zone Authority, to study the province's proposal to avoid any conflict arising from the project.

"We still have to wait for the opinion of the Peza officials on the proposed project. We have to comply with the guidelines they will set to place everything in order," Lacbain said.

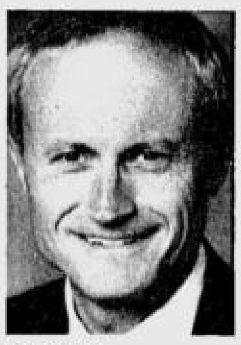
Ortaliz attended the session of the provincial board last Monday to discuss the requirements needed for the creation of economic zones in the country.

He said Peza was "more than willing" to support the proposal to establish a special economic zone in this province.

But Ortaliz said he needed to study the proposed project to avoid any conflict with the mandate of the Subic freeport zone. *Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Ford insider new CFO

DETROIT—Ford Motor Co. on Thursday promoted Controller Don Leclair to chief financial officer—its fifth in four years—tapping an insider to manage cost-cutting launched by former CFO Allan Gilmour after he was lured out of retirement.



LECLAIR

The promotion of Leclair, a 27-year Ford veteran who is not well known outside the company, ends a lengthy search by Ford chair and chief executive Bill Ford Jr. to find a successor for the 69-year-old Gilmour, who came out of retirement last year to help bolster the company's turnaround efforts.

Gilmour, who is also vice chair, had said earlier that he wanted to be relieved of direct day-to-day responsibility for financial operations at the world's second-largest automaker.

Ford has only recently returned to profitability after losing $6.4 billion over the last two years.

"My focus is going to be ... on costs, making sure that our quality is right and our product development system does what it needs to do to produce the new products in our pipeline with the right cost and the right quality," Leclair said in a conference call with reporters and Wall Street analysts.

Reuters

20-YEAR HIGH

US jobless benefit claims soar

WASHINGTON—The number of Americans claiming jobless benefits late last month hit its highest in more than 20 years, the government said on Thursday in a report underscoring persistent weakness in US labor markets.

The number of idled workers on the benefit rolls jumped by 87,000 in the week ended June 28 to 3.82 million, the highest level since Feb. 1983, the Labor Department said.

It also said first-time claims for unemployment insurance rose by 5,000 to a seasonally adjusted 439,000 last week from 434,000 a week earlier, surprising economists on Wall Street who had expected claims to edge down a bit.

Other reports on Thursday offered mixed readings on the manufacturing sector and showed rising US import prices, while top retailers said June sales were hurt by wet weather.

While clear signs have yet to emerge showing the economic pace has picked up after a sluggish start to the year, a closely watched poll of forecasters out on Thursday found projections of growth had recently been tweaked higher.

Economists cautioned about drawing conclusions on the near-term direction of the labor market from the jobless claims numbers, saying the Independence Day holiday on July 4 and auto plant shutdowns may have skewed the figures.

"It was a holiday week, so we don't take it too seriously," said David Wyss, chief economist at Standard & Poor's Rating Service in New York.

Still, he said it was not good news for the economy: "It's a continued jobless recovery."

The claims data deepened a pall hanging over financial markets that already were fretting over the outlook for corporate profits after Internet giant Yahoo's results came in below expectations earlier in the week.

The Dow Jones industrial average finished down 120.17 points, or 1.31 percent, at 9,036.04, with all but one of the 30 Dow components ending lower.

The technology-laced Nasdaq Composite Index dropped 31.77 points, or 1.82 percent, to 1,715.69.

The claims figures came on the heels of a report last week that showed the US jobless rate surged to a nine-year high of 6.4 percent in June.

That report also showed the number of workers experiencing long-term unemployment hit 2.04 million, the highest level since Dec. 1992.

"If and when the economy begins to gain some momentum, the dismal labor market should slowly start to improve, but it's entirely possible we could be stuck here for a long time," said Oscar Gonzalez, an economist with John Hancock Financial Services in Boston.

In an interview with Reuters, Commerce Secretary Don Evans predicted some improvement in job prospects next year as the effects of Bush administration tax cuts kick in with a lag.

"We would expect the unemployment number would trend down in 2004, I think that's a reasonable kind of expectation," Evans said.

Reuters

US to decide on sale of Global Crossing

WASHINGTON—The US government will likely soon announce its decision on whether to allow Global Crossing Ltd. to sell a majority stake to a company owned by the Singapore government, US Commerce Secretary Donald Evans said on Thursday.

US economic and security officials have been divided over whether to allow Singapore Technologies Telemedia to acquire a 61.5 percent stake in the bankrupt telecommunications company that operates a high-speed network in 27 countries.

A memorandum opposing the deal is circulating at the Pentagon although a Defense Department spokesperson, Lt. Col. Dan Stoneking, said on Thursday a final decision has not been made. Additionally, the Department of Homeland Security has reservations about the deal, an agency official has said.

We "haven't made a final decision on it yet," Evans told Reuters in an interview. "But it's been very actively discussed and it continues to be and we'll be making an announcement on that I'm sure in the next several days."

Global Crossing and STT must win approval from the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States which reviews deals that involve the sale of assets to foreign entities.

"The debate is about ... foreign ownership of a telecommunications network and whether or not that's appropriate," Evans said.

STT agreed to pay $250 million for the majority stake in the company and the companies filed their application to the foreign investment committee on June 20. The panel must decide within 30 days of the filing whether to allow the transaction to go forward or extend its investigation for another 45 days.

Global Crossing had to restructure the deal once before when STT's former partner, Hong Kong-based Hutchison Whampoa Ltd. pulled out after US officials raised national security concerns.

Reuters

Wall St. banks extend analyst ban outside US

NEW YORK—At least three of the 10 Wall Street banks that were part of April's $1.4 billion settlement over alleged biased stock research have blocked analysts worldwide from trying to win investment banking business.

Citigroup Inc., the world's No. 1 financial services company and Goldman Sachs Group Inc. and Morgan Stanley, two large Wall Street investment banks, on Thursday said they extended the ban to non-US countries.

Citigroup said it tightened its rules worldwide for research analysts about five months ago. Goldman Sachs said it did so in April and Morgan Stanley in June.

"Others will be pressed to follow," said Larry Soderquist, a professor at Vanderbilt University Law School in Nashville, Tennessee, and director of its Corporate and Securities Law Institute. "With the increasing global nature of the economy, it makes sense to have the same rules apply across the globe."

Citigroup's announcement came a week after Judge William Pauley of the US District Court in Manhattan, who is overseeing the settlement, but has yet to approve it, asked banks for more information on whether the ban on analyst conflicts applies to non-US affiliates or units.

The April 28 settlement among the banks, the US Securities and Exchange Commission, the NASD, the New York Stock Exchange, New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer and state securities regulators ended some investigations into whether analysts slanted research to win banking business.

Susan Thomson, spokesperson for Citigroup's Smith Barney unit, said: "Globally, we have adopted a policy that precludes analysts from attending investment-banking pitches. In the US there are no exceptions. Outside the US, our independent research management would only consider an exception when a foreign government asks specifically."

Reuters

JAPANESE share prices plunged 3.1 percent Friday morning, with the Tokyo Stock Exchange's Nikkei-225 average falling 308.30 points to end the early session at 9,647.32. AFP

Merger activity may be back

NEW YORK—Merger activity among US investment management firms is finally starting to show a little life due to the improving stock market, although players are moving cautiously after equities' three-year slump.

"I see a lot of opportunities for bigger companies to acquire mutual fund firms or even independent investment management firms that have lost too many clients or are not well-capitalized enough to continue into the next bull market," said Timothy Stives, managing director at Ashland Management Inc.

Since mid-June, American Express Co. agreed to acquire UK fund manager Threadneedle from Zurich Financial Services for $570 million and Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. confirmed that it was in talks to buy Neuberger Berman Inc.

Charles Schwab Corp.'s US Trust unit has agreed to buy State Street Corp.'s private asset management business for $365 million.

"My feeling is that the investment banking business has been on hold for 2-1/2 years," said Stephen Smith, executive vice president at Brandywine Asset Management. "People are now lining up and starting to do deals. They know their weaknesses and the niches they need to fill."

One industry executive, who declined to be identified, said that with the partial recovery in the US stock market, a "gap" between buyers and sellers is narrowing.

A recent report by Merrill Lynch analyst Guy Moszkowski said the attractive aspects of the investment management business include high profit margins, strong cash flow, low capital commitment and reasonable growth prospects. Negative factors included a mature industry and demographic trends that are less favorable than in the past.

Reuters

Asian stocks slide anew

SINGAPORE—Asian stocks fell for a second day on disappointment over results from Internet bellwether Yahoo Inc., slumping three percent in Tokyo and helping the dollar drive higher against the yen.

The dollar also advanced against the euro after the Financial Times said German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder wanted the European Central Bank (ECB) to intervene to weaken the single currency.

Japanese government bonds (JGBs) gained on the slide in stocks, while oil and gold were steady.

Tokyo's Nikkei stock average ended the morning session down 3.1 percent at 9,647.32 after US shares fell on disappointment over Yahoo and a bleak unemployment report.

Hong Kong fell more than one percent in early trade, as did Taiwan. Singapore and Australia lost 0.4 percent while South Korea reversed 0.8 percent.

The yen felt the pressure from the stock market after holding firm all week as foreign investors bought the currency to snap up Japanese shares. It weakened to 117.94 yen against the dollar, versus 117.66 yen in late US trade.

The euro was on the retreat too after the FT said Schroeder had issued "a veiled call" for the ECB to intervene to reduce the value of the euro and help European exports. *Reuters*

Tokyo hard hit by vacancies

TOKYO—The rate of empty office space in central Tokyo hit a record high in June after a flood of new office blocks hit the market, a brokerage firm specializing in real estate said Friday.

The office vacancy rate in five central wards across the capital—Chiyoda, Chuo, Minato, Shinjuku and Shibuya—stood at 8.57 percent at the end of June, up 0.07 percentage points from the previous month, Miki Shoji said.

It was the highest level since the firm started researching the office vacancy rate—a key figure to gauge demand for buildings—in 1989.

The number of empty offices grew in other urban areas in June as the nation's economic slump battered local businesses, the firm said.

Underestimating the gravity of Japan's economic slump, many developers and building owners have gone ahead with construction projects, which are due to be completed this year.

As a result, total floor area of new buildings is due to top a record two-million-square meters (22-million-square feet) in central Tokyo this year, twice the size of space provided in the late 1980s when Japan enjoyed a "bubble" investment boom.

AFP

Wal-Mart, other big retailers muddle through soggy June

CHICAGO—Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and other top US retailers on Thursday reported June sales largely in line with muted expectations as a mid-month burst of warmer weather spurred demand for summer goods.

Clearance sales drove much of the action for the month, which could pressure profits as retailers slashed prices.

Several big names including J.C. Penney Co. Inc. and Kohl's Corp. lowered their earnings forecasts.

The Standard & Poor's retailing index slipped 1.69 percent, underperforming the Dow Jones industrial average.

Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi said overall June sales at stores open at least a year—a key retail measure known as same-store sales—rose 2.4 percent from a year ago. That was slightly ahead of its forecast for a 2 percent increase but well below last year's 5.1 percent advance.

June typically accounts for about 10 percent of retailers' annual sales, making it one of the most important months in the retail calendar, Bank of Tokyo analyst Michael Niemira said.

For July, the bank forecast same-store sales growth in the range of 2.5 percent to 3.5 percent.

Unusually cool, wet weather across parts of the United States last month stalled summer sales in the first half of the month, leaving many retailers with a glut of shorts and swimsuits just as back-to-school clothes arrive.

This spring was the wettest in more than a century for the mid-Atlantic, according to Salomon Smith Barney meteorologist Jon Davis. Other parts of the country were colder than normal.

"Apparel sales seem to be coming in light and it looks like they're going to continue to be light," said Bill Dreher, retail analyst with Deutsche Bank.

"After so many years of strong apparel sales, consumers are just as happy to shop from within their own closets, particularly with no compelling fashion," he said.

"There's no reason to run out and buy more apparel." *Reuters*

SOME using digital camera-loaded mobile phones, fans try to shoot singers arriving for the Japan MTV Video Music Award in Saitama, north of Tokyo. Cell phones with cameras are opening up new possibilities for crime in Japan. In July, the magazine publishers association is mailing out 34,000 posters to bookstores nationwide asking people not to use camera-equipped cell phones, which are increasingly being used to snap shots of pages from magazines and books that browsers don't bother buying. AP

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BF Homes-Las Pinas 1.9M 2BR Kalaw St LA-143m² FA-80m² 890-9718 0917-5409037

LAS PINAS/BACOOR
2-4 BRS, 1-3T&B, 2Storey
P5,000 to Reserve/No loan req't
874-0486 874-0487

MALABON

TUGATOG nr S'daan Cal la120 new bung 2BR grge 285-0238

QUEZON CITY

4BR 1.3M Nova 2855129

MANILA

NR LA SALLE
BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge P3.295M 8903461 loc 34

PARANAQUE

BICUTAN 0917-8928471

COUNTRYSIDE VILL 6BR LA240m² P1.8M Vic 8903461 loc. 27

GREENHEIGHTS 09178364966

PASIG

Hse cor lot w/existing business magnolia cor peach Greenwood Exec. Vill Pasig City LA-264m² FA-164m² P3.8M Neg 641-9573

QUEZON CITY

1167 SQM 18T/SQM 8 GOLDSTAR WHITE PLAINS T8447647

ACROPOLIS MORNING SUN 423m² 2sty 3BR Den P17M near Park T6337601-03

•Sikatuna 9210255 / 9219967

WHITE PLAINS 632m²
w/2storey house 5BR 4car grge big lawn for swimming pool. P20M negotiable. Pls call 9114705/4649 & look for Tita or Chris 0919-4014983

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922-4464/913-7632

HOUSE & LOT

RIZAL

RESICOM 4BR 2TB garage main rd Gertrude Mambugan w/ fcltys P2.8M 6820150

BATANGAS

AYALA PROPERTY AT STO TOMAS BATANGAS 364 SQM. HOUSE N LOT 2.5M NEG 500T DP BAL 2 YRS TO PAY W/O INT 0918-9424538

LAGUNA

MILAN CAMELLA HOMES 2Sty FA210m² LA78m² P1.9M Vic 8903461 loc. 27/25

ADELINA 1 3Bdrms LA183m² P1.7M Vic 8903461 loc. 27

RUSH! PACITA I NR GATE 1.5M NEG 807-0634 / 870-5138

Tpark 3T/mo (049)8392301

VALENZUELA

Apt.4 Sale w/Hse&Lot Marulas Val. DBO LA:400m² FA:60m² 890-9718 0917-5409037

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1.6M C5 Nr The Fort
12T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 3-5BR 15min Fr Mkti 0917-8169849

MANILA

LEON GUINTO
NEAR LA SALLE
Bnew/3Sty/3BR/3TB/grge
P3 295M 8903461 loc 34

1-2-3BR nr La Salle TAFT 894-4516 / 0917-9853661

nr UST,Espana Tower
6391694 • 0917-8102903

Taft Ave. Acrs La Salle, 1BR 33Sqm 1.6M RFO By Dec '03 Bernie (0918) 9282591/6517049

MANDALUYONG

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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

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PASIG

VVERDE 3BR 1.7M T9124323

QUEZON CITY

2BR CUBAO 1.2M 9120679

Cubao P1.4m 10%DP 9132224

Panay Ave furn w/Prkg 2BR/TB 56m² 2.9M neg 09189233502

PENTHOUSE RFO P9.7M 09208309744/6396864

Rush! Fernandina 88 100sqm 4.5M Neg 3br 2tb 0917-8143792

•RUSH!CUBAO TH 3BR 2T&B MAIDS RM GARAGE 9126663

QC THSE BNEW
0918-4491555•7157091

LOT

KALOOCAN

RAINBOW VILLAGE 5 LA216m² P3,473/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 25

LAS PINAS

METROCOR Back of SM 254sqm 4800/m² 800-4771

MANILA

928m²@35K LaSalle/St.Scho DirectBuyers 0917-5259510

MARIKINA

STA.TERISITA VILL. 206m² Call 9330092

PASIG

COMM'L LOT ORTIGAS AVE EXT. 416M² P13M (0916)257-7978

METROVILLE SUBD LA333m² P4,054/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

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VILLA ESPANA LA108.50m² P12,000/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

OTHER AREAS

KINGSVILLE SUBD LA 397M² P4,250/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

RANCHO VISTA SUBD 613/m² P2,284/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

TAGAYTAY 1.7hec 1500/m² 09178378368•6471960 DBO

TOWN & COUNTRY HILLS LA240sqm P3,125/sqm Vic 8903461 Loc. 27

OTHER PROVINCIAL

LAOAG CITY nr market 123m² Boots9514317/0916-4563432

BATANGAS

LIPA 0917-8928471

Sto. Tomas, Batangas
1.3Ha. P14M 0920-9034812

TAAL Blngs 200m from Diversion Rd LA6794m² P185.50/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL LA4000m² P200/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

BAGUIO

Nr Green Valley 23has 4 sale or joint venture 9330092

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

LAGUNA

MILLWOOD SUBD LA100m² P3,500/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

SOUTH PEAK P5,000/m² LA240m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

PROVINCIAL

BATAAN resdl lot Cablaben Mariveles 150m² 90T
PANGASINAN L7B5 Raymundo Subd. 3Bo Bantucaling Mangalare 240m² 90T
09192224304 / 8070865 Loreen

★TAGAYTAY LOTS★
Along H-way low dp/mo. 240m²-up Coldest Spot T658-8704 Totie

BUSINESS SPACE

43 12TH Ave Cubao w/3Car Grge Inqr Ofc hrs 9116329 May; Sunday 6208235 Tina

BUILDING

Club & Rest. Paniqui, Tarlac all in P45M 721-5309

COMM'L / RES BLDG NR CITY HALL J. RIZAL ST., 807-0634

MEMORIAL LOT

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SAN MIGUEL LA4000m² P200/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

TAAL Blngs 200m from Diversion Rd LA6794m² P185.50/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

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HOUSE

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PARANAQUE

MULTINATIONAL 2304191

RIZAL

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Palmera II Ort. Ext. 635-9713

BAGUIO

2BR P1,500/DAY FF 9316443

LAGUNA

STA ROSA VILL II 2BR w/ T/B SALA 5500/mo 7246251

CONDO/TWNHSE

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ALEXANDRA D164 FURN CALL 819-3322 & 19

ORTIGAS CTR 1BR UNFURN 17T 4121825 0917-7914366

QUEZON CITY

ROSEMONT TWR Studio furn Panay Ave. very access cntact Janeth 0916-2746245

APARTMENT

MANILA

2BR u/d strong H2O 7051695

STA MESA APT. UP/DOWN 842-0440

MANDALUYONG

1BR Up&Down w/garage #32 Bulalakaw 5344109/6585656

2BR 36ESTEBAN 8212091

MARIKINA

NEW 2STY 2BR&TB LARK ST. GOOD LOCATION 6461603

PASAY

CUENCA 8T 5500254/831-5026

NR. V. Cruz 400-9293 5T

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SHOW SCHEDULE
Saturday, July 12, 2003
8:00 AM - Registration
8:30 AM - Judging
Ring 1&2 - Sporting Group
12:00 NN - Lunch Break
12:30 PM - Registration
1:00 PM - Judging
Ring 1 - Hound, Terrier & Toy Group
Ring 2 - Terrier, Toy & Hound Group
Sunday, July 13, 2003
8:00 AM - Registration
8:30 AM - Judging
Ring 1 - Non-Sporting & Herding Group
Ring 2 - Herding & Non-Sporting Group
12:00 NN - Lunch Break
12:30 PM - Registration
1:00 PM - Judging
Ring 1 - Boxer, Rottweiler, G. Dane, Dobe, Husky
Ring 2 - S Husky, Dobe, G Dane, Boxer, Rottweiler
Best in Show

As per AO #32 S2000 of the Department of Agriculture Exhibitors are required to bring the updated vaccination records of their dogs duly certified by a Veterinarian with an updated PRC license and PTR.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given on the lost Club Filipino Cert. #1103. If no contest received new certificate will be issued. (PDI - July 5, 12 & 19, 2003)

NOTICE OF LOSS - Official Receipt # M-8591368 issued by the Bureau of Immigration-R.P. to Mr. Toshio Shimada was loss. If found pls. contact Mrs. Shimada at 0917-8996116 (PDI-7/12/03)

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MARKETING ASSISTANT

- ☐ Female / Male
- ☐ Graduate of 4 year course in commerce
- ☐ 22-30 years old
- ☐ Must have at least 2 years experience
- ☐ Has good communication skills
- ☐ With pleasing personality

ADVANTAGE: work experience in sales / marketing in a plastic firm

SALES ENGINEER TECHNICIAN

- ☐ 25-40 years old
- ☐ Good communication skills
- ☐ Willing to travel
- ☐ At least 5 years experience as a Technician/Engineer in the following plastic manufacturing fields:
  - Film Bag Manufacturing
  - Film/Paper converting
  - Printing Packaging
  - Bottle/Injection
  - ·Extrusion

COMPUTER ADMINISTRATOR

- ☐ Graduate of 4 years computer course
- ☐ Full knowledge in computer networking
- ☐ Internet base programming
- ☐ • Knowledge in trouble shooting

ACCOUNTING CLERK

- ☐ Graduate of BS Accountancy
- ☐ With at least 1 year experience in general & cost accounting
- ☐ Must be computer literate

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

- ☐ Single with pleasing personality
- ☐ At least 22-30 years old
- ☐ Excellent in written communication & interpersonal skills
- ☐ An individual that can work with minimum supervision
- ☐ A team – player, aggressive, self motivated and result oriented

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ACCOUNTANT/PAYROLL CLERK

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Computer Literate (MS Excel, Access etc.)
- 2 yrs experience in manufacturing/cost/ tax; accounting financial statement/ knowledgeable in import/export process
- Strong background in accounting payroll

Send Resumé with photo at:
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Musical Director: Gerard Salonga
The Forum at the Podium Mall, 3rd flr., ADB Ave., Ortigas Ctr., Mandaluyong City
Show Dates: July 17, 18 & August 2, 2003
Ticket Price: Php. 1,300 with Dinner
Dinner at 7:00 P.M. Show Start at 9:00 P.M.
Tickets Available at the Forum
for Ticket Reservation & Delivery Call Mega Media at
Tel. no.: 687-5335 ; 687-5402

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
U.N. Avenue, Paco, Manila

RE-INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites Contractors with technical knowhow which specializes in Waterproofing using Polyurethane Spray Foam Technology Application or Contractors with Joint Venture Agreement to Applicators who Specialized in Waterproofing using Polyurethane Spray Foam Technology to apply for eligibility and, if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the hereunder project:

NAME OF PROJECT	LOCATION	APPROVED BUDGET
Repair of MFC Warehouse #3	NFA-ACA Compound, Valenzuela City	P 4,095,686.20

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Issuance of Eligibility Forms and Checklists	July 7-14, 2003
Deadline for Submission of Eligibility Filled-up Forms and Requirements	July 16, 2003
Issuance of Bid Documents	July 28-30, 2003
Pre-bidding Conference	August 14, 2003
Submission and Opening of Bids	August 29, 2003

Interested contractors shall submit their Eligibility Statements including Price Proposals in the prescribed forms to the Chairman, Regional Bid and Award Committee (RBAC), National Food Authority, U.N. Ave., Paco, Manila.

Eligibility forms may be secured at the NFA-RBAC Secretariat upon presentation of Letter of Intent and payment of a non-refundable application fee of Php 500.00. Contractors who have previously paid Php 500.00 are no longer required to pay said amount.

Bid documents and plans shall be issued only to eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 2,500.00

All particulars relative to Eligibility, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Pre-Bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of E.O. 40 and other applicable laws, rules and regulations.

This will supersede the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid published on June 14 & 21, 2003.

NFA reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any defect or informality, and to accept only such bids or to award to any contractor whose bid is considered most advantageous to the National Food Authority

(Sgd.) ATTY. BASILIDES TACO
Asst. Regional Director & RBAC Chairman

(PDI – July 5 & 12, 2003)

AUCTION

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HEAVY EQUIPMENT - JOHN DEERE S/N GD570A9509 Grader, GRANDALL G3WD Wheeled Excavator; (2) KOMATSU D505 Crawler Loaders; CATERPILLAR D7E Crawler Tractor; CATERPILLAR 826B Landfill Compactor; REX 355B Landfill Compactor
BOOM TRUCKS - HENDRICKSON Flatbed Truck w/ SIMON STRINGER 10T. Cap. Boom; FORD COMMANDER 8000 Utility Truck w/ 10T. Cap. Boom; NISSAN Flat Bed Truck w/ 3T. Cap. Boom; ISUZU ELF W/ 1T. Cap. Boom
TRUCKS/VEHICLES - (3) MACK, PETERBUILT, KENWORTH, FREIGHTLINER, REO, INTERNATIONAL, MITSUBISHI Tractor Heads; MITSUBISHI Flatbed; (4) MITSUBISHI Transit Mixers; (4) ISUZU Elf Dropside Trucks; 5000 Gal. Cap. Water Truck; MMC School Bus, (3) CHEVY Pick-Ups; SUSUKI SAMURAI 4x4
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GENERATING SETS - STANDFORD, DETROIT 1000KVA, CUMMINS 600KVA, DENYO 600KVA, ONAN 30KVA
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WELDERS/WELDING GENERATORS - MILLER, Engine Driven; Asstd. Electric Arc Welders
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HEAVY EQUIPMENT / AUTOMOTIVE SPARES - CATERPILLAR, CUMMINS, HINO, PERKINS, DETROIT, MACK, VOLVO, Diesel Engines; Asst'd Transmissions; Asst'd. Transfer Cases; Starter Motors; Water Pumps; Differentials; Fith Wheels; Excavator Buckets; Winches; TOYOTA Car Bodies; Radiators; Fan Belts; Clutch Pads; Crank Shafts; Cylinder Heads; etc.
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DREDGER - 20" Cutter Suction w/ Support Equipment (for negotiated sale)

AT: KOG INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES INC.
5TH ZONE, BRGY. CABALANTIAN, BACOLOR, PAMPANGA
AUCTION DATE: WEDNESDAY 30TH - THURSDAY 31ST JULY 2003
10:30AM SHARP
VIEWING DATE: MONDAY 28TH JULY AND TUESDAY 29TH JULY 2003
9:00AM - 5:00PM AND MORNING OF SALE DAY
REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT: PHP50,000 (UPON REGISTRATION)

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Website: www.henrybutcher.com [illegible]

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PHILIPPINE COCONUT AUTHORITY
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City Tel. No.: 928-4501 to 09
Cable Address: "Philcoa" P.O. Box 3386, Manila, TIN # 000724616

NOTICE OF SALE

"As Is, Where Is"

There will be a **SPECIAL PUBLIC AUCTION SALE** to be conducted at the Philippine Coconut Authority, Diliman, Quezon City on **July 30, 2003** of the hereunder fertilizers aggregated into one (1) lot. Said fertilizers shall be available for inspection at the PCA Regional Office in Lucena City and warehouse in Tiaong, Quezon starting **July 14, 2003.**

Type of Fertilizers		Quantity/No. of Bags	
Ammonium Sulfate	(AS)	30,380 bags)	One Lot
Potassium Chloride	(KCl)	11,400 ")	
Superphosphate	(SP)	23,780 ")	
Salt	(NaCl)	7,970 ")	
Dolomite	(Dol)	4,040 ")	
Total		77,570 bags more or less	

Sealed bids on an "As Is, Where Is" basis in the prescribed form shall be received together with their Stand-by Bidder's Bond equivalent to ten Percent (10%) of the total bid amount in Cash, Manager's Check, or Cashier's Check until 2:00 p.m. on the abovementioned date at the Procurement Operations Division, 2nd Floor or at the Executive Lounge, 8th Floor, R & D Building, Philippine Coconut Authority, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City and shall then and there be opened and publicly read.

Pre-bid Conference : **July 23, 2003** at 2:00 p.m.
Registration Fee : Php 2,000.00 (non-refundable)
Bid Bond : 10% of Bid Price

(Sgd.) **DENNIS J. CALUB**
Chairman, Committee on Appraisal and Auction of Undelivered SCFDP Fertilizers

(PDI - July 11, 12 & 13, 2003)

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THE PHILAM PLANS FAMILY
DEEPLY MOURNS THE PASSING OF

FRANCIS JOSEPH EDWARDS LITTAUA

VICE PRESIDENT OF MANILA NORTH SALES DIVISION
on July 9, 2003 at the age of 43.

He will be most remembered as an advisor, mentor and friend. His unrelenting passion for work, his distinct brand of humor, his profound humility and pragmatic wisdom earned for him the respect, high regard and love of many.

Philam Plans enjoins all those who are part and those who have been part of the Philam Plans family to join the Necrological Rites at the Philamlife Village Chapel, Las Piñas City on Saturday, July 12, 2003, 7 pm. Cremation rites will be on Wednesday, July 16, 2003, 1:30 pm at the Manila Memorial Park Crematorium, Parañaque City.

Sra. ALICIA ALDEGUER vda. de EDUARDO BLANCO

was called home to the Lord
on Thursday, July 10, 2003.

Her beloved husband **Dading** (†); children **Bebs**, **Eddie** (†) and **Loving**, **Cecile** and **Monching** (†), **Joe** and **Mely**, **Ting** and **Purita**, **Carmina** and **Jimmy**; her grandchildren and great grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state in La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park) Sucat, Parañaque.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 13, 2003 at 4:00 p.m. Mass will be held at 2:00 p.m.

"In my father's house are many rooms
I'm going there to prepare a place for you
I will come back and take you to be with me
That you may also be where I am"
John 14:23

God has called home our Dad

EDUARDO RAMIREZ MOJICA

(July 17, 1936 - July 10, 2003)

He is survived by his loving wife **AIDA**; children **DINO & KATRYNA**, **BIM & COCOY**; grandchildren **HANNAH & COBY**; sisters **LETTY, ALICE, ATI & CHIT**.

His body lies in state at Resurrection III Chapels of Arlington Memorial Chapel, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 13, 2003, 3:30 p.m. at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Message of Thanks

The Family of the late

ARTURO V. ROCHA

Wish to express their heartfelt gratitude to all those who offered prayers, Masses, flowers and who, in one way or another, helped in their moment of darkest sorrow.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments	OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

- DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
- MESSAGE OF THANKS
- DEATH ANNIVERSARY
- REQUIEMS

BIENVENIDO H. JUINIO

June 9, 1937 - July 10, 2003

His wife **Nellie**; children **Lyn**, **Noel** and **Irish**, **Gigi**, **Anne** and **Bobby**, and **Bon**; grandchildren **Jason** and **Gary**, **Markie**, **Megan** and **Irelle**, **Brynn**, **Denden**, **Benjie** and **Dave**, and relatives request the pious readers to say a little prayer for the repose of his soul.

The body lies in state at their residence at 85 Camia Street, Sto. Rosario Subdivision, Pateros, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on July 15, 2003 (Tuesday), 2:00 p.m. at Pasig Catholic Cemetery, Pasig City

---

LUIS A. MANLAPAZ, JR.

Retired Provincial Treasurer
Masbate, Masbate

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on July 8, 2003 at the age of 66.

His loving wife **Coring**; children **Jackie**, **Jojo & Grace**, **Jun-Jun & Madona**; sisters **Cely & Rose**; brothers **Romy & Boy**, request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at his residence in Masbate City. On July 16, 2003, he will be transferred to his residence in Uson, Masbate.

Interment will be on Saturday, July 19, 2003 at the Uson Catholic Cemetery after the 8:30 morning Mass.

"Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it much as dawned on man what God has prepared for those who love Him." I Corinthians 2:9

CLASSIFIEDS

Philippine Air Force
Headquarters Air Logistics and Support Command
Clark Air Base, Philippine Air Force
Angeles City, Pampanga

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Air Force (PAF) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the procurement of C-130 aircraft spares.

Prospective bidders must be duly licensed by the appropriate government agency. Eligibility requirements/forms will be made available to contractors upon submission of the below listed required documents to the Senior Bids and Awards Committee (SBAC) Secretariat, Air Logistics and Support Command (ALSC), Clark Air Base, Pampanga:

1. Letter of Intent to participate in the bidding
2. Certificate of Registration from SEC/DTI/CDA

The approved budget is **TEN MILLION PESOS** (10M php) for C-130 aircraft spares.

The Pre-bid conference and Opening of Bids will be held on **11 Aug 2003 (Mon)** at the Project Management Staff Office (PMSO) Conference Room, CJVAB, Pasay City and **25 Aug 2003 (Mon)** at the ALSC Conference Room, Clark Air Base, Pampanga, respectively.

You may secure the Bid Documents from the SBAC Secretariat, DM office, 2nd Floor, Air Logistics and Support Command (ALSC), Clark Air Base, Pampanga or at Tel. No. 045-599-2014/2015 local 6689 / 09192353229.

The Philippine Air Force reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality contained therein and to accept and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the government. The Philippine Air Force neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of the bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **COL LORETO G SUAREZ PAF (GSC)**
Chairman, Senior Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–July 12 & 19, 2003)

CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES — SENTRONG PANGKULTURA NG PILIPINAS

CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES
wishes to announce its
INVITATION TO BID
on the following:

1. **5 years lease of a Trellis Area- (292 sq.m.)** at the Liwasang ASEAN, CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City;
2. **Lease of a Space with an area of 204.17 sq.m.** at the second floor of the CCP Administrative & Finance bldg., CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City;
3. **Lease of a Store space with an area of 6 sq.m.** located at the CCP Ferry Terminal, CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City;

Please send a letter of intent to bid, addressed to Mr. Ed Duque, CCP BAC Secretariat, Office of the Vice President, Cultural Center of the Philippines, CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City. Tel. Nos. 832-3680 or Fax No. 832-3683/ 834-0471. Deadline for submission of letter's is on Tuesday, July 29, 2003, 5:00 p.m.

The CCP reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof without offering any reason, waive any defects contained therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the government, and the right to confiscate the bid bond and/ or pursue appropriate legal action should the winning bidder refuse to accept the award.

Further, the CCP assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that they may incur in participating in the undertaking, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) SID HILDAWA
Chairman, CCPBAC

(PDI--July 11 & 12, 2003)

Send your resumé instantly.
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Taste Expo, a co-located event of World's Food Expo (Wofex) 2003

TASTE Expo: A Celebration of Culinary Artistry, is a co-located event of World's Food Expo (WOFEX) 2003. Taste Expo is designed to further enhance WOFEX 2003 and serves as a significant appendage to an event that brings in the best food & beverage products from around the globe.

This year, Taste Expo brings to us Borges' Royal Chefs Manila 2003, a professional culinary competition sponsored by Borges Olive Oil, exclusively distributed by Oriental Merchants Inc. And the Cold Kitchen Fest 2: a Creative Sandwiches Competition, sponsored by San Miguel Foods and Purefoods-Hormel. To be held on August 6-9, 2003 at the World Trade Center, the event expects attendance from chefs, culinary professionals and practitioners, restaurateurs, entrepreneurs, hobbyists and "foodies" alike.

Interested parties may contact Premier Events Plus Group Inc. at 436 4711-12, 929 7963 or 93 or 436 4898. For more information, log on to www.worldsfoodexpo.com or email info@pepgroup.com.

Taste Expo is presented to you by Borges Olive Oil, exclusively distributed by Oriental Merchants Inc. Also brought to you in part by San Miguel Foods and Purefoods-Hormel.

Inquirer's special edition WOFEX supplement

THE Philippine Daily Inquirer is the Official Media Sponsor for print of the country's most anticipated food event, World's Food Expo (WOFEX) 2003, the 3rd International Exposition on Worldwide Food & Beverages. Being the only food show to be supported by the Inquirer this year, World's Food Expo (WOFEX) 2003 will be held on August 6-9, occupying all three halls of the World Trade Center. Wofex promises to bring a more dynamic show than ever. Co-located events of this year's World's Food Expo (WOFEX) 2003 are Baker's Fair, Foodmach 2003 Expo, World Food Summit and the Taste Expo, which will feature two major culinary competitions for this year. Also, Philippine Daily Inquirer will be coming out with a special edition World's Food Expo supplement insert featuring the events and highlights of World's Food Expo (WOFEX) 2003 to be released on its opening day, August 6. For more information, interested parties may contact Premier Events Plus Group (PEPGroup) at 436 4711-12, 929 7963 or 93 or 436 4898. Email at info@pepgroup.com or log on to www.worldsfoodexpo.com.

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

Can ACE inhibitors reduce the burden of CAD?

CARDIOVASCULAR disease or diseases of the heart and the blood vessels is a major health problem. Of an estimated 50 million deaths occurring worldwide in 1990, about a third was due to cardiovascular diseases. The most common and perhaps the most serious would be Coronary Artery Disease (CAD), manifested as blockade of the heart's blood vessel that can ultimately lead to the dreaded heart attack. In fact, every two men and one in every three women above the age of 40 is at the risk of developing CAD. Despite lifestyle measures, use of certain medicines (aspirin, cholesterol lowering medicines, heart rate lowering drugs) and other interventions (by pass surgery, balloon angioplasty), the global burden of CAD is expected to further escalate. It is projected that by the year 2020, cardiovascular diseases will account for 37 percent of all deaths. New strategies to address the problem therefore, is urgently needed.

One of the promising medicines for CAD is the class of the Angiotensin Converting Enzyme (ACE) inhibitors. ACE inhibitors are drugs that were initially developed for lowering high blood pressure. Because of certain special properties on the heart and blood vessels, they have also been used extensively in a variety of other clinical conditions like in patients who are suffering from heart failure, heart attack and stroke or brain attack with excellent results. Aside from lowering blood pressure, which is an important risk fact in CAD, ACE inhibitors can improve heart and blood vessel wall structure and function, prevent vessel constriction, promote blood vessel dilatation, and suppress unnecessary blood clotting - all contributory factors in the development of CAD.

In fact, some studies have initially demonstrated possible beneficial effects of ACE Inhibitors in patients with CAD. Results however are not always consistent and patient populations were limited mostly to high-risk subjects. A large trial therefore was necessary to explore the potential of an ACE inhibitor drug in patients who have stable CAD without heart failure and are not at very high risk for such a condition - like what the majority of patients really are. Addressing this unmet need is the ongoing landmark study, European trial on the Reduction of cardiac events with Perindopril in stable coronary Artery disease (Europa), the results of which are due to be presented at the European Society of Cardiology (ESC, Vienna) meeting in Sept. 2003.

The Europa study has included 12,236 patients from 24 European countries to determine whether the addition of the ACE Inhibitor perindopril (Coversyl) to standard therapy decreases cardiovascular deaths, heart attack and cardiac arrest. To further elucidate the possible mechanism(s) by which perindopril could reduce morbidity and mortality in CAD patients, several sub-studies have been incorporated into the Europa study. These are designed to provide for a better understanding of the effects of perindopril in preventing coronary artery disease and its complications.

AMSPEC
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AMSPEC JOIN HANDS WITH CHILDREN NOW!3 COMMITTEES

Amalgamated Specialties Corp. (Amspec) through its products Crayola crayons and Li'l Hands Arts & Crafts joined efforts with Children Now!3 working committees, the Unesco Club of Metro Manila together with the Office of the Presidential Adviser for Special Concerns, Office of the President of the Philippines, and the City of Manila for the 3rd International Day Project - Children Now!. The art event Children Now! was first organized in Krakow, Poland in 1996 by the Unesco Center in Krakow and Studio Aneks Art Gallery in cooperation with their municipality, consulates, prestigious art galleries, and the media, and is being celebrated every first Sunday of July since then. This event gathers together in one day thousands of children and their families to create a common painting on a piece of canvass based on a certain theme, thus promoting social integration and global thinking. Photo shows one of Amspec lovable mascots Ms. Crayola, Amspec marketing manager Antonette Ravana-Severino, Children Now!3 project chair and vice president of Unesco Club of Metro Manila Frederick Epistola, and Children Now!3 executive director Rea Uy during the contract signing.

ISOPROPYL ALCOHOL
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J&J DONATES TO RITM, SAN LAZARO FOR SARS PREVENTION

Hospital workers at the Research for Tropical Medicine (RITM) and San Lazaro Hospital get additional help in preventing possible Sars outbreak. Photo shows J&J brand manager Kristine Bautista handing over Band-Aid 70 percent isopropyl alcohol and Presept disinfectant products to Dr. Remigio Olveda, RITM director.

Bits Clips

Cocoplans Inc. launches Class

COCOPLANS Inc.,launches Class (Cash Leverage for Academic Assistance)in key locations natiowide, July 12 - Tarlac, Davao, and Cebu; July 19 - Iloilo and Cagayan de Oro; July 24 - Makati; and July 26 - Lipa. Class distinguishes itself from the many education plans in the preneed market as a package specifically addressing the basic necessities and everyday expenses that come with going to school. These are things that are often taken for granted in preparing for education. It is well settled that the need for Class - an allowance-funding plan - exists and Cocoplans Inc. is now providing an answer to this need. For inquiries, call 892-4956 to 59 or visit the Cocoplans Inc.'s Corporate Business Center at the 5/F Rufino Plaza, Ayala Ave. cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City or email customercare@cocoplans.com.

Behold Thy Mother

THE MADRIGAL Art Center Inc. (MAC) presents "Behold Thy Mother", a rare exhibition of Marian and religious paintings, also featuring select furniture pieces, to be held from July 1 to 16, at the macHall. The exhibition carries more than fifty works of the artist, Bro. Rommel Salvacion that delves into "Healing and Deliverance and the Role of Mary in Revelations" - the subject of a forum whose first part was held last June 21, with part 2 of his talk focusing on the how-tos of healing and deliverance which is scheduled for July 12, from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Saint Jerome Parish Church Multi-Purpose Hall. Registration begins at 1:30 p.m., the talk starts at 2 p.m. Admission is free. MAC is located along Commerce cor. Museum Drive Ayala Alabang (beside Sta. Susana / St. Jerome Church, at the Alabang Town Center). For particulars, call 842-0127, Tuesdays to Saturdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., or call/text Bunny Reyes at 09178160371 or Monica Deakin at 09175298820, email at soulmission@i-manila.com.ph.

National Consumers Excellence Award

THE PARANGAL ng Bayan Foundation Inc. recently awarded outstanding Filipino achievers through the 18th Parangal ng Bayan and outstanding Filipino products/companies through the 18th Annual National Consumers Excellence Award. The awarding was held last May 24 at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium of RCBC Plaza in Makati City. The awarding ceremony will have a delayed telecast over RPN 9 on July 12 at 11 p.m.

Improve your marketibility

BUSINESSMAKER Academy (BMA) offers a series of business courses to entrepreneurs, corporate employees and business groups from the retail, manufacturing, finance, hotel, restaurant, hospital and educational industries. "Accounting Made Easy" will be held on July 12 and 25. "Win Customers for Life" will be conducted on July 12 and 26. To be held at Tektite, all sessions are inclusive of materials, starter kits, handouts, snacks, drinks, and certificates of completion. Visit www.businessmaker-academy.com or call 678-4445/678-3416/678-4645 for inquiries and reservations.

A brave new world called Graindell

ACCOMPLISHED children's author Rene Villanueva is a man with a mission. In his latest work, "Graindell", a book about a "planetoid shaped like a little eye", he spins a tale about two friends who share a common dream - to turn their home into the greatest place to live in the galaxy. The simple, yet moving, story comes alive with the masterful renderings of Redge Abos, a young and talented artist from Ilustrador ng Kabataan (INK), in watercolor, combined with digital technology.

The book's publisher, the International Rice Research Institute, shares this lofty aspiration.

Together with the release of the book, IRRI launches the "Graindell Community" which espouses the call for a dynamic, well-developed countryside through multisectoral participation. Membership is open to children and their stewards - parents, teachers, scientists, children's story writers and illustrators and other concerned citizens.

Its members converge at the educational website, Graindell.com. The site teaches children to "dream, aspire, persevere" through games, instructional materials, and interactive learning exercise with other children, as well as their "stewards". Please visit www.graindell.com to sign up, get more information and contribute content to the site.

The "Graindell" community, the book, and the website will be launched during National Children's Book Day, slated on July 15, 9:30 a.m. at Museo Pambata in Roxas Boulevard, Manila. Spearheaded by the Philippine Board on Books for Young People (PBBY) to commemorate the anniversary of the publication of Jose Rizal's "The Monkey and the Turtle", the activity hopes to promote international understanding through children's literature.

Education, key to family progress

EDUCATION is the key to continued improvements in the quality of life of Filipino families, according to the CEO of John Hancock Life Insurance Corporation.

"Filipino families are making great strides in all facets of career and family life, and their strong commitment to children's education ensures that further, rapid progress is certain," said Michael Plaxton, president and CEO of the Philippine subsidiary of Boston-based John Hancock. Supporting his view, Plaxton points to burgeoning sales of the Company's university savings plans. John Hancock recently added McDonald's to the broad array of partners and value-added services that parents enjoy as part of John Hancock's University Savings Plus (USP). Under the new deal with McDonald's, USP members receive a Membership Card that entitles them to free gifts or food after a certain number of restaurant visits.

John Hancock recently sponsored balloon twisting for children at McDonald's Fun Fair at Star City, the restaurant's main event for the year.

"We keep improving our education plans," said Mr. Plaxton. "We're adding a double-protection feature so that, if a parent dies, a lump sum is paid to the family to help cover living expenses, and the university fund keeps growing to cover future university costs. We're also adding a Summa Cum Laude bonus to reward outstanding students."

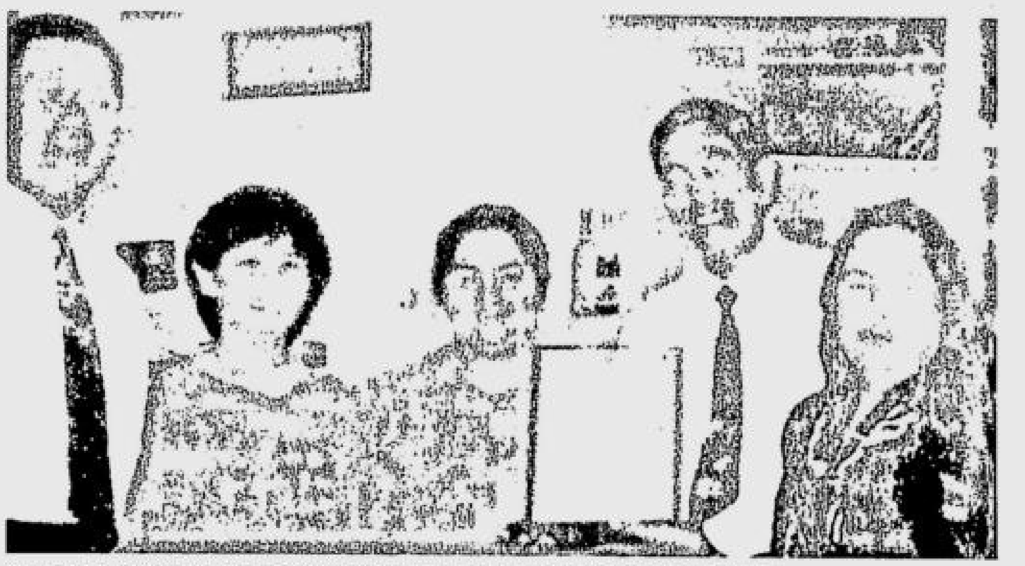
In addition, John Hancock has developed a high-school education plan that will fund the high school years and provide a Tutorial Bonus to help children prepare for university.

John Hancock is one of the world's largest life insurance companies with 141 years of experience. In Asia, it operates in the Philippines, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand.

World's best taste at Astoria Plaza

EXPERIENCE the best of international cuisine at the Café Astoria with daily theme lunch buffets available from Monday to Saturday. Executive chef Emmanuel Manansala prepares an array of international world-renowned dishes for your dining pleasure. Go "Sariling Atin" with your favorite Filipino food on Mondays and Wednesdays. Venture into Asian cuisine on Tuesdays and Fridays. Be ready with gastronomic Italian - Continental flavors on Thursdays and Saturdays and on Sundays, get the world's best taste with international cuisine. Café Astoria' daily theme lunch buffet is available from Monday to Saturday for only P420 ++ per person inclusive of bottomless iced tea.

The 35 storey Astoria Plaza consists of fully-serviced residential suites conveniently located at 15 J. Escriva Drive, Ortigas Business District, Pasig City. Astoria Plaza has 9 function rooms perfectly suited for your business meetings, seminars, and conferences. Each function room has complete state-of-the-art audio visual equipment upon request. The Astoria Plaza is in close proximity to the Makati central business district and is within a short distance to top business addresses, academic institutions, shopping malls, entertainment facilities and sports facilities. The Astoria Plaza is managed with distinction by Genesis Hotels and Resorts. For inquiries and reservations please visit or call telephone number (02) 687-1111.



STATELAND AWARDS PIONEER REALTY AS ASSOCIATE

Stateland Inc. launched a long year search for outstanding brokers and agents to recognize the valuable efforts of its external sales force. An exclusive association of top notch brokers and agents was established and was named as Stateland Circle of Eagles. In May, one of its top brokers, Pioneer Realty, was the first to qualify as an associate of the prestigious Circle of Eagles after meeting the required quota. Stateland's sales group head Delie Chua, diamond division head Regan Uy, marketing officer Jane Faderon, and the members of Pioneer Realty namely architect Noel Vitug and Dr. Teresita Vitug were present during the awarding ceremony held at Pioneer Realty's office. The awardees received the financial incentive and a plaque of recognition.

SHOWREEL'S NEW FACE

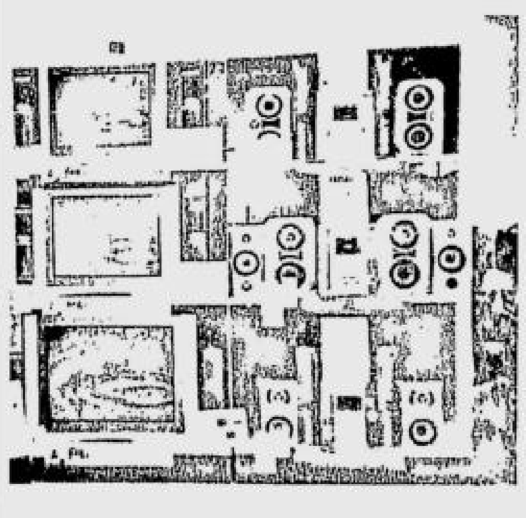
On April 1988, Showreel Tele-Teknix, Inc. was formally incorporated as a company fully engaged in video and film production. It has maintained and continually worked with a number of top advertising agencies, most talented film makers and sought after directors/DOP, and local and foreign post production houses. To cope with the rapid change of time, Showreel Tele-Teknix is opening its door to a new dimension - events. Showreel is out to shake, excite and thrill everyone with its whole line up of knock out concepts you've never experienced before. In photo are the staff of Showreel (from left) Boyet Jallorina, Rochelle Toniza, Emy Magat, Liza Eslapor, Liza Masirac, Carly Banque; (below) Niña de Castro and Joey Figueroa.

Product FILES

A class by itself

FABER-CASTELL offers you a range of distinctive designs created for your corporate gift items. Every pen is of perfect elegance. A class by itself. You may put your company emblem on the crown or clip of the pen or have an elegant engraving or silkscreen of your brand. Faber-Castell is your intelligent marketing decision. For more details, please contact the Faber-Castell outlets at the National Bookstore branches in Glorietta, Greenbelt, Alabang, Podium and Quezon Ave. and at selected SM branches.

FABER-CASTELL
FABER-CASTELL



Abenson opens new store in Ortigas

ABENSON has over 55 stores nationwide. It has expanded to the Calabar area and has gained strong foothold within these provinces. Several years ago, it began opening stores in the south. This year, Abenson's adds another store in its expansion program with a new one in Ortigas. With the opening of Abensons St. Francis Square (along Julia Vargas Ave. behind SM Mega Mall, beside McDonald's) the people in Ortigas will enjoy shopping from a wide selection of products. Putting emphasis on making sure its clients find the appliances they are looking for, the store showcases in 2-storeys the modern households electronics from only well-known quality brands.

SCIENCE/HEALTH

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Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**
Assistant Editor **Stella O. Gonzales**

3 cases of twins fused at the head

THREE pairs of twins used to be conjoined at the head. All underwent separation surgery—two of them in Singapore overseen by the same neurosurgeon, Dr. Keith Goh.

One pair, from Iran, died this week during surgery in Singapore. The story of 29-year-old Ladan and Laleh Bijani grabbed headlines the world over. The result of their operation has prompted debate on whether doctors should have performed the delicate and dangerous surgery on adult Siamese twins.

A second pair of twins, from Guatemala, underwent surgery in Los Angeles last year. One of the 23-month-old girls now has some brain development delays.

The third pair, from Nepal, are in stable condition two years after their surgery in Singapore. The twins are now 3 years old.

Siamese twins occur when a single fertilized egg splits to form twins, but the separation is incomplete. Siblings joined at the head—craniopagus twins—are rare, occurring in one in every two million births. Successful separation is even rarer.

Since 1952, surgery has been performed successfully on infants, whose brains can more easily recover. Doctors hope that with the advances in science adults will have a chance at living separate lives.

Iranian twins killed by blood 'trap'

SURGEONS who fought for hours to separate Siamese twins Ladan and Laleh Bijani came across an unexpected "trap" of large pockets of blood that unleashed an unstoppable hemorrhage, a French doctor who helped prepare the operation said on Wednesday.

"We prepared for everything, but in the end, there was a 'trap' at the base of the cranium, which was not detected by the preoperational (3D) scans and where the hemorrhage occurred," said Pierre Lasjaunias, a professor of neurology and radiology at Paris' Kremlin-Bicetre hospital.

Located between the base of the skull and the meninges—the protective lining of the brain—the "trap" was "like pockets of blood, exceptionally large blood sacs, which had no known purpose but were not the cause of any disorder."

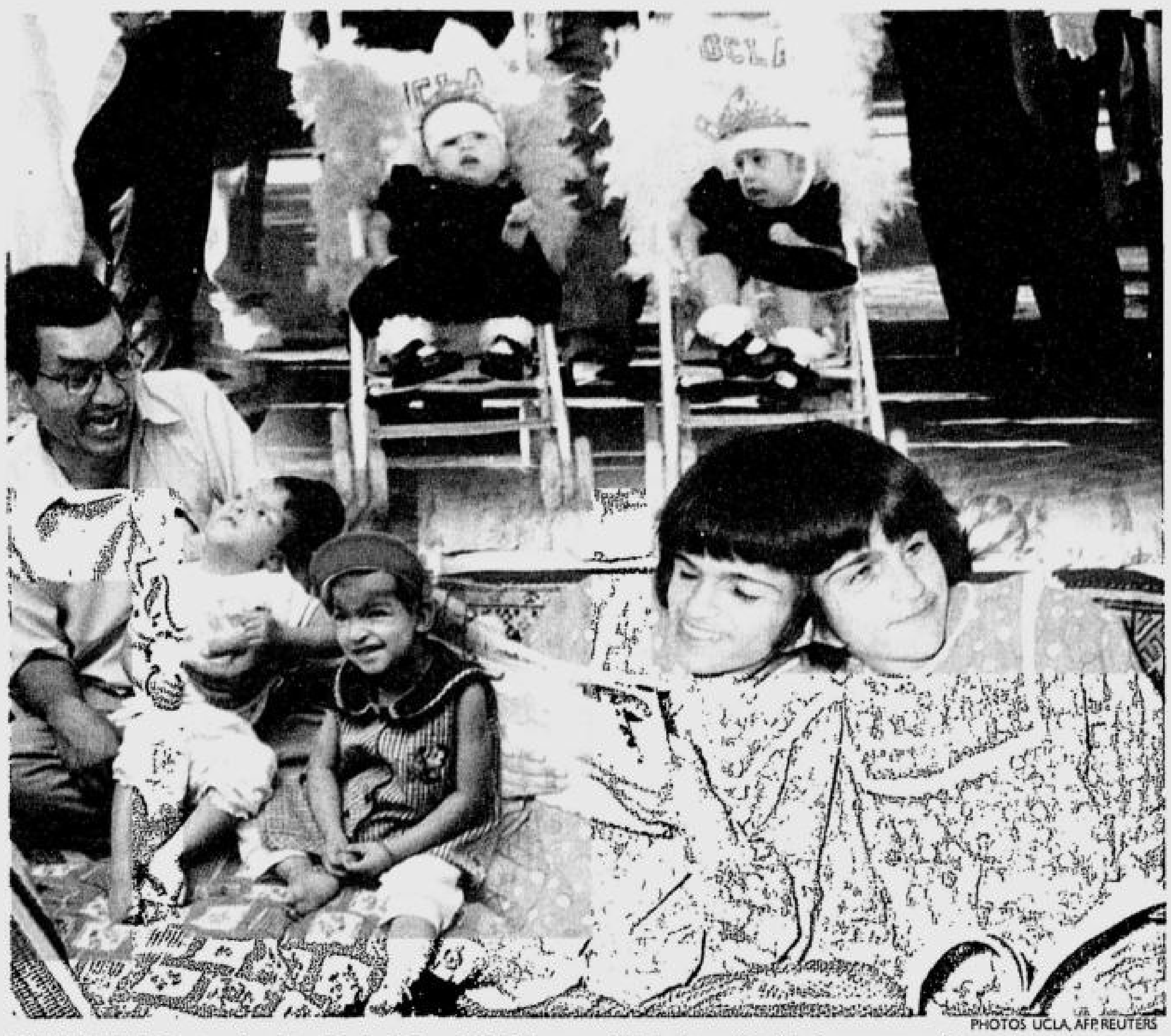
He added: "At the end of the operation, just at the point when the twins were being separated, these pockets were opened up but, for reasons that are still unclear, it was impossible to stem the hemorrhage."

The 29-year-old twins died on Tuesday after surgeons in Singapore battled for 52 hours to separate them at the head. Their deaths brought to an end unprecedented and dramatic surgery by a team of 28 specialists and 100 assistants, who had managed to separate the women's tightly packed brain tissue and blood vessels.

Lasjaunias, asked about the ethical questions stirred by the operation, said that medically "there was no degree of urgency about having to operate, unless it was the pressure exerted by the sisters themselves."

He added: "An ethics committee, which notably included a cleric, a Muslim like the two girls, was set up in Singapore when plans for the operation got underway. It determined that their desire for separation was valid and the medical risks acceptable."

AFP, Reuters



PHOTOS UCLA, AFP, REUTERS

THREE TWINS. Guatemalan sisters Maria de Jesus Quiej-Alvarez and Maria Teresa (Top) during a press conference last January; Iranians Laleh and Ladan Bijani when they were 15; and Ganga and Jamuna Shrestha today with their grandfather in Nepal.

Guatemalan twin suffers setback

A 23-MONTH-OLD Guatemalan twin once joined at the head to her sister has suffered a neurological setback and remains at the Los Angeles hospital where the two were separated almost a year ago.

Maria Teresa Quiej-Alvarez was about to be released from UCLA's Mattel Children's hospital last Thursday when she showed signs of fever and doctors decided to keep her for observation.

Dr. Jorge Lazareff, director of pediatric neurosurgery at the hospital, attributed the twin's setback in developing cognitive and motor abilities to severe meningitis, an infection of the brain, which she contracted in Guatemala in April, eight months after the separation surgery.

Neurological development involves the central nervous system, including brain and spinal cord function.

The other twin, Maria de Jesus, was discharged from the UCLA hospital earlier this month after treatment for a surgery-related head wound and is doing well.

The twin sisters were separated at UCLA last August in a complicated and dangerous 22-hour operation. They had returned in January, to Guatemala but were flown back to the United States in May for follow-up care.

A hospital spokesperson said Maria Teresa's vital signs were stable, "but she has suffered developmental delays that have become more apparent."

The girls will turn 2 on July 25. *Reuters*

Separated Nepali twins stable

KATHMANDU—Nepali twins Ganga and Jamuna Shrestha, once joined at the head, are stable two years after surgeons in Singapore separated their fused skulls but neither can walk yet, a doctor and family members said on Tuesday.

The twins, now 3 years old, have been recovering in Kathmandu since their surgery in 2001.

Family members said the twins were stable but one was growing slower than the other.

Ganga cannot sit yet while Jamuna can sit but cannot walk, they said.

"Ganga is growing slowly. She responds to family and friends but cannot sit or speak," said their mother, Sandhya.

Sandhya left her job as a school teacher in Sallyan town, 400 km west of Kathmandu, to live with the twins in the capital.

Prabin Shrestha, a neurosurgeon at Kathmandu Model Hospital, where the Nepali girls undergo regular medical checkups, said both children were fine and in stable condition.

The Nepali girls' grandfather, Arjun Dev Shrestha, said the family was waiting for word from doctors in Singapore to return for more reconstructive surgery on their skulls.

Doctors at the Singapore General Hospital where the Nepali twins' operation was performed donated their services for the delicate four-day operation. Donations from the public paid for other costs.

"Without this, it would not have been possible for the operation," said the twins' grandfather. *Reuters*

Facing the population crisis

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

ALTHOUGH THE PHILIPPINES has long boasted of its people (who may be found in practically every place in the world), we cannot deny that the continued increase in our population is placing an enormous strain on our resources, and perhaps contributing to social and economic upheaval. Add to this the increasing brain drain, constant migration and a very young population, it is no wonder that many scientists believe that, right now, we are facing a demographic crisis.

Thus, this year's theme of the National Academy of Science and Technology Annual Convention (NAST) is "Addressing the Demographic Crisis." Last Wednesday and Thursday at the Manila Hotel, scientists both old and young met to discuss issues revolving around this topic and several more.

The speakers included Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo Jr. ("Food Security and Safety"), Dr. Corazon Raymundo of the UP Population Institute ("Population Challenges in the 21st Century"), Public Works Secretary Florante Soriquez ("Infrastructure Development"), Dr. Alberto Romualdez Jr. of the Friendly Care Foundation Inc. ("Basic Health Services and Population Growth"), and Dr. Felipe Medalla of the UP Diliman School of Economics ("Economic Implications of Demographic Crisis").

Simultaneous technical sessions in the different fields of scientific research and practice were held in consonance with the theme:

Agricultural Sciences

- Emerging Livestock Production Technologies to Keep Base with Increasing Population (Dr. Javier Mateo of Agri-specialists)
- The Rice Problem in the Philippines: Trends, Constraints and Policy Imperative (DA Undersecretary Arsenio Balisacan)
- Corn in the Philippines: Feeding the Population Beyond the Present (Dr. Artemio Salazar of the DA)
- Toward Sustainable Aquaculture in the Philippines (Dr. Rolando Platon, SEAFDEC, Aqd.)
- Sustainable Marine Fisheries Production in the Philippines (Jonathan Dickson of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources).

Biological Sciences

- Mechanical, Chemical and Surgical Methods of Contraception (Dr. Virgilio Oblepias of the UP Manila College of Medicine)
- Hormonal Contraception: An Approach to the Demographic Crisis (Dr. Mildred Pareja of the UP Manila College of Medicine)
- Sex Preselection in Animals: Current Methods and Applications (Dr. Conrado Valdez of UP Los Baños College of Veterinary Medicine)

Chemical, Mathematical and Physical Sciences

- Demographics and Education (Academician Bienvenido Nebres, S.J., of Ateneo de Manila University)
- Water Supply in the Philippines: Cebu as Object of a Case Study (Fr. Herman van Engelen of San Carlos University, Cebu City)
- Population: Demand on Air (Fr. Jose Ramon Villarin, S.J., of the Manila Observatory, Ateneo de Manila University)

Engineering Sciences and Technology

- Competitiveness in R & D (Raul Sabularse of PCIERD-DOST)
- Competitiveness in Education (Academician Reynaldo Vea of Mapua Institute of Technology)
- Competitiveness in Practice (Academician Angel Lazaro III of Angel Lazaro and Associates Consulting Architects and Engineers)

Health Sciences

- Implications of the Demographic Crisis on Health and Nutrition (Dr. Jaime Galvez-Tan of UP Manila)
- Immunization Program of DOH in the Face of Demographic Crisis (Dr. Myrna Cabotaje of the DOH)
- The National Health Insurance Program in the Face of the Demographic Crisis (Dr. Francisco Duque III of PhilHealth)

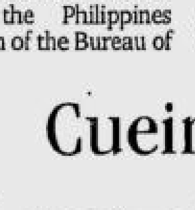
Social Sciences

- Using the Capabilities Approach to Analyze Access to Information and Communication Technologies by the Poor (Erwin Alampay of UP Diliman)
- Probing the Decisions Behind Induced Abortion in the Philippines (Dr. Aurora Perez of the UP Diliman Population Institute)
- Demand for Housing in Metropolitan Cities of the Philippines (Dr. Marife Ballesteros of the Philippine Institute for Development Studies)
- Women, Migration and Reintegration (Estrella Dizon-Añonuevo of Balikabayani)

We need to face these problems squarely, and work together to find thoughtful and acceptable solutions.

Cueing in

DISCOVER



Massie Santos Ballon

First of two parts

WHEN I was a child, I used to have a big book of answers. I don't remember any of the questions now, but two pictures from that book have remained with me.

One photo shows a row of British soldiers, in their red coats and tall fur hats, all standing stiffly at attention, except for one soldier caught in mid-collapse. I think that photo was for the section explaining why people faint.

The other photo shows a teapot composed of brown dots of various hues and sizes. It's like pointillism on a larger scale, until you realize that there's a cup in that teapot made up of blue-hued dots, and in the cup is a circle made up of some other color dots, I forget what exactly.

I originally thought the image was like one of the Magic Eye or Where's Waldo? games, until I realized that the accompanying text was all about color blindness. The idea was that if you couldn't see all three images, there was a good chance you had some form of color blindness.

In the June 25 issue of the Proceedings of the (US) National Academy of Sciences, Jianzhi Zhang, an evolutionary geneticist from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, talked about the relationship between male color blindness and man's decreased ability to detect pheromone signals.

Apparently man's ability to see color came at the cost of being able to note changes in the environment by smell alone. This also explains why Cartoon Network's I R Baboon has a big red behind—or maybe not.

But first a little background information.

Color blindness is caused by problems in certain photoreceptors (light detectors/receivers in other words) called cones in your retina.

There are three types of cones, each one named for the wavelength of the color spectrum they're tuned in to.

Short (or S) cones detect blues, middle (or M) cones can see greens and long (or L) cones see reds. The range of hues seen per wavelength varies, however, since not everyone is tuned in at exactly the same place on the spectrum.

The actual numbers vary, but it's estimated that about 10 percent of European men are color blind, while only 0.5 percent of European women have the same problem. Although I couldn't find any statistics for women in Asia, it's estimated that about 4 percent of Indian men are color blind, and one could guess that the number of color blind women in that population would be proportionally lower.

To explain why that is, let's review X-linked or sex-linked (everyone's 23rd pair of chromosomes) recessive traits.

Let's say Mikey (X1Y1) and Micaela (X2X3) have just gotten married. Mikey is color blind while Micaela has normal color vision. Pairing up their chromosomes we find that there are two chances out of four that they will have a daughter—X1X2 and X1X3—and another two out of four chances of having a son—X2Y1 and X3Y1.

If they have a son, he will have one of Micaela's good X chromosomes, and he will have normal color vision. If they have a daughter, she will inherit Mikey's X1 gene with the defective color blindness trait. However, since she also gets one of Micaela's good chromosomes—X2 or X3, it doesn't really matter—she will have normal color vision because color blindness is a recessive trait.

Let's now say that Mikey and Micaela's daughter Mickey—X1X2—marries a man named Michael—X4Y2—with normal color vision. While their chances of having a son or a daughter remain equal, the relationship between gender and color blindness has changed.

The chromosomes now pair up to form the following four combinations: X1X4, X2X4, X1Y2 and X2Y2.

A son or daughter who inherits Mickey's good X chromosome—X2—will have normal color vision. If a daughter inherits Mickey's bad chromosome—X1—she, too, will not have color blindness because her dad's good X4 chromosome compensates. If a son inherits Mickey's bad X1 chromosome that she got from her color blind father, however, he will be color blind.

As we can see from the above examples, fewer women suffer from color blindness because they have another good—no color vision problems—X chromosome to compensate for. Since men only have one X chromosome, they don't have that luxury.

I should point out here though that there isn't just one kind of color blindness out there. Yet 90 percent of all people with color blindness are unable to see reds and greens. Why is that? The answer next week, along with a discussion of pheromones.

Specialists define lines in treating lung cancer patients

By Tessa R. Salazar

A LUNG mass would compel a patient to go straight to a lung specialist (pulmonologist). Another patient with the same condition would go directly to a cancer specialist.

Who went to the right doctor?

For years, the line had been blurred between the roles of pulmonologists and cancer medical oncologists in treating lung cancer. To compound the confusion, these two fields have not communicated as openly as they would have wished.

Medical oncologist Dr. Antonio Villalon said that for patients who have stage 3 lung cancer, the lack of coordination among the different medical disciplines is particularly confusing.

He said that at this cancer stage, it is hard to determine if a patient's chances would be better if he underwent cobalt treatment, an operation or chemotherapy.

He said the lung specialist should refer the patient to a surgeon for operation, or if an operation is not viable, the patient should be referred to a radio therapist or a medical oncologist.

"It is the lung specialist who decides," Villalon said.

Better coordination

Recently, pulmonologists and medical oncologists have expressed willingness to coordinate better in treating lung cancer patients.

Last June 27, two medical organizations—the College of Chest Physicians and the Society of Medical Oncologists—met to define each other's roles in the management of lung cancer.

The meeting was aimed at forging better partnerships between specialists—pulmonologists, pathologists, radiologic interventionists, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists and thoracic surgeons.

The symposium, organized by Eli Lilly, was one of the biggest gathering of key players in the management of nonsmall cell lung cancer.

Misdiagnoses

During the meeting, specialists outlined the following problems:

- A significant number of lung cancer patients are misdiagnosed, diagnosed late, or misclassified according to stage of the disease.
- Many patients decline appropriate diagnostic work-up and treatments due to various medical and socioeconomic reasons.
- There is a need to further improve clinical competency in lung cancer diagnosis and treatment.
- There is a lack of awareness, appreciation and application of updated data and consensus guidelines in the diagnosis and treatment of lung cancer.

Lung specialist Dr. Daniel Tan, one of the moderators of the event, said the coordinated approach of the two societies can be considered "a success for all lung cancer patients in the country."

He stressed that the symposium was about multidisciplinary approach and teamwork. "Each doctor has a role to play in the management of lung cancer," he said.

Tan said that in other countries, there are multidisciplinary cancer clinics which have become important mechanisms for the delivery of care to patients with malignancies. These clinics offer "one-stop shopping" for patients to optimize the quality of care provided.

Such clinics allow specialists to be available in one location to address individual cases and discuss controversial treatment decisions.

Multidisciplinary clinics, however, are easier said than done. Physicians from various specialties usually have varied opinions on the management of patients with nonsmall cell lung cancer.

In the Philippines, there is another major obstacle: specialists are concentrated in Metro Manila and in other urban centers.

Tan said that with the increasing number of people engaged in smoking, the number of cancer specialists would not be enough in the coming years.

Tan said there are currently only about 90 oncologists for the country's population of 78 million.

Brain specialists think out of the box

By Rafael R. Castillo

MEDICAL FILES

OUR neurologists, or brain specialists, have always played low-key in the medical community. But I think they're one of the most hardworking medical specialists around.

Stroke or brain attack is increasing in prevalence in the Asian region and neurologists are actively campaigning to educate the public on the risk factors that can lead to strokes and how it can be prevented.

Elevated blood pressure (BP) remains as the leading risk factor triggering stroke, and a more aggressive and sustained control will go a long way in preventing a brain attack; which can either be a blockade or rupture of an artery in the brain.

Common practice

Our brain and heart specialists lament the common practice of many hypertensive patients to take their medicines only when they have symptoms such as dizziness and headache. This is grossly erroneous because first, many hypertensive patients have no symptoms, and second, symptoms attributed to hypertension such as headache and dizziness are most frequently not due to hypertension.

Lability of the BP has also been implicated to cause complications and this is what happens when one takes medicines erratically. The BP swings up and down like a roller-coaster and many people don't realize how it can ruin one's cardiovascular health.

Another misconception is that many think the BP is low in the morning since one is fully rested at night, and it goes up later during the day. The opposite is true. The BP is actually highest in the early morning because of an increase in the sympathetic nervous system and other factors. This is why the incidence of strokes and heart attacks are highest in the early morning.

So hypertensive patients should not neglect to take their antihypertensive medications first thing in the morning. For my hypertensive patients who exercise vigorously in the morning, I advise them to take their medicines before they exercise.

It can really be stressful for medical practitioners, especially our brain specialists, to be thinking of and talking about stroke all the time. They need to take a break from it all and think outside the box once in a while. They want to discuss other pressing nonneurological concerns which they may have.

Doctors Raymond Espinosa and Raquel Alvarez sent me this message:

"After years and years of toiling, we finally became doctors. Then after graduation in medical school and passing the licensure examination, we were faced with a bigger dilemma: Do we want to study some more, to train further and be on 24-hour duty and all the back-breaking things a young doctor in training have to do?

Further training

"This meant having to hurdle more years of a seemingly endless studying and gaining more expertise to become a specialist. One trains and trains further to become a super specialist.

"Our society, the Philippine Neurological Association (PNA), is composed of neurologists or specialists in diseases involving the brain and nervous system. We may have had various reasons for pursuing this field, but for most of us, we would choose no other specialty. This is our main field of interest. Our researches are focused on brain-related or nervous system-related problems. We practically breathe and live neurology 24-hours a day.

"However, we may also get to a point when we have to ask ourselves: What else is there besides my practice as a neurologist?

"Despite what others may think, many physicians including many neurologists still nurture the humanitarian aspect of being a physician, rendering service even if we don't get paid for it. Especially in difficult times like this, the humanitarian call becomes more imperative. But we don't mind at all.

"Admittedly, we have to earn a decent living by our private practice, but this objective should not be an overriding concern that will determine who we should render our service to. We treat anyone who comes to us if our services are needed, especially in emergency situations.

"Many doctors therefore find the need to engage in additional trade or business to meet their needs for themselves and their family. We need to ensure the best education for our children and provide them the basic comforts in life. We also need to build up some savings or 'extra fund' when the inevitable time to slow down in our practice comes. Or simply, we may be nagged by interests to pursue business undertakings other than our love for Neurology."

Convention theme

"Thinking Out of the Box" is the theme of the midyear convention of the PNA, which will be held at the Legend Hotel in Subic, Zambales, on July 25-26. During the convention, neurologists will explore, not only medical concerns of the brain and nervous system, but other nonmedical concerns such as financial undertakings, music, dancing and other aspects of the arts.

Performing artist Jim Paredes will talk about "Unlocking Creativity"; Doctors Artemio Roxas Jr. and Darwin Dasig will lecture on the "Neurology of Music"; and Dr. Carissa Paz Dioquino and Inday Manosa of the Philippine Ballet Theater will share their insights on the "Neurology of Dancing." Several other interesting topics are also lined up to make it an informative and enjoyable convention, beyond neurological concerns. A memorable evening with the PNA founding members will also be held on the second night.

The organizing committee of PNA has left no stone unturned to make this a successful convention. The officers are: Doctors Raymond Espinosa, president; Carlos Chua, vice president; Romeo Enriquez, secretary; Ceferino Rivera, treasurer; Raymond Rosales, Raquel Alvarez and Johnny Lokin, directors; Artemio Roxas Jr., immediate past president.

We wish our brain specialists success in their convention and in their campaign against strokes.

Are u in?
What makes youth tick?
Catch 2bU! every Wednesday in the Lifestyle Section. For the latest events, places, and trends in town.
INQUIRER 2bU!

The HUB Trons unleashed

The Hub by Globe Telecom introduces the HUB Trons (Tech Rovers on Site), tech-savvy guides for the digerati.

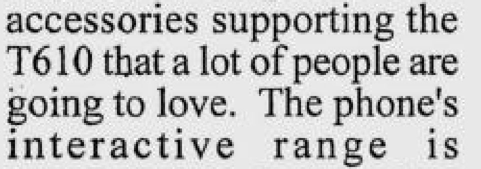
A HUB Tron with Podium shoppers trying out the Sony Ericsson T610.

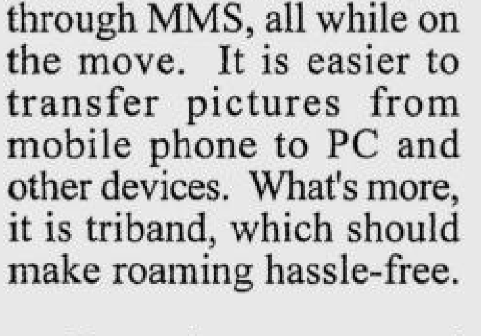
Keep an eye out for the newest techmeisters to hit Manila's trend centers. Sharp, sleek and edgy, the HUB Trons (Tech Rovers On Site), clad in ultramodern body suits and brandishing cool handsets from the Hub, are the digerati's answer to spokesmodels.

Strutting the ramps from Hub stores in Glorietta 4, Rockwell and Podium over the weekend, the HUB Trons not only turned heads but also fashioned new converts to the dynamic mobile lifestyle as they showcased the Sony Ericsson T610 to thrilled afternoon mallers. Who wouldn't get a kick out of receiving a personalized tour of the phone's features from futuristic-looking tutors who mastered their way with the handset?

The HUB Trons swiftly demonstrated how to navigate the Sony Ericsson T610, a feisty number that is fully packed and sports a new look with a metal body, a brighter screen with 65,536 colors plus a built in camera and MMS-capability. They also showed a couple of new accessories supporting the T610 that a lot of people are going to love. The phone's interactive range is exceptional, designed to enable people to take digital photos and send them through MMS, all while on the move. It is easier to transfer pictures from mobile phone to PC and other devices. What's more, it is triband, which should make roaming hassle-free.

From the way a crowd of thrilled onlookers gathered around the HUB Trons wherever they went, it appears the T610 could be a big seller for Sony Ericsson. Try it out at the nearest Hub store and check back for the next encounter with the HUB Trons. ■


The HUB Trons with the staff of Hub Glorietta.


Showcasing the Sony Ericsson T610 at Glorietta 4.

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Appreciation of others is increasing one's own worth

By Marge C. Enriquez

There is a natural law that governs the give and take in our actions and relationships. Called the Golden Rule or, in the East, Karma Philosophy, this principle states that what we receive reflects what we put in.

Over the weekend, down with exhaustion and allergy, I tried to forego medication and hoped to get well just by reading "God's Healing Power" by B.K. Jayanti. Our relationships, says the author, are likened to investments and withdrawals in a bank account or business. If we are overdrawn in our account, naturally, we're in big trouble.

There was an example in the book that really struck me since, in my various activities, I get to play both supervisor and subordinate (read: master and menial) roles. The example helps put a stop to whining, especially about one's job.

It tells of this executive, a frequent business traveler. His secretary bears the brunt of the work when he's away. Instead of acknowledging how much his triumphs depend on his secretary's loyalty and diligence, he remains obsessed with one thing alone: the bottom line, profit.

There is a limit to everything, says Jayanti.

Time will come when, after giving so much, the secretary will find the boss' ingratitude unbearable. The dedicated worker will suddenly throw off the towel, perhaps leaving chaos in her wake. The common notion in the corporate world that nobody is indispensable is actually egoistic. It disregards the fact that every human being is unique and has a special contribution to make in the scheme of things.

In accounting, "appreciation" means an increase in the value of assets. Similarly, appreciation in relationships boost the partners' stability and worth. These positive feelings expand the supply of that invaluable asset–goodwill.

Jayanti says a full stock of goodwill results in a benevolence of spirit that appreciation of others spreads as a natural outcome.

If the executive only knew how to balance his business and his personal self, he would not be so callous.

As for the secretary, Jayanti says, "right connection with the divine" would help her maintain self-esteem and liberate her from wanting her boss' appreciation. Her mindset would be: she is doing her work for her own contentment, she is doing the right thing, and her efforts will bear fruit in their own time.

If the boss suddenly discovers what a gem of an employee she is, and changes his behavior towards her, well, that should be a bonus. Meanwhile, she will not crave approval, but her patience will increase the chances that this will happen.

If she gets a better offer elsewhere, she will leave without rancor. But as long as the job still serves her, she may decide to stay.

Jayanti says keeping cool will greatly increase the likelihood that circumstances will be assessed accurately, and that mature behavior will ensure a hopeful future, rather than invalidate what has been achieved.

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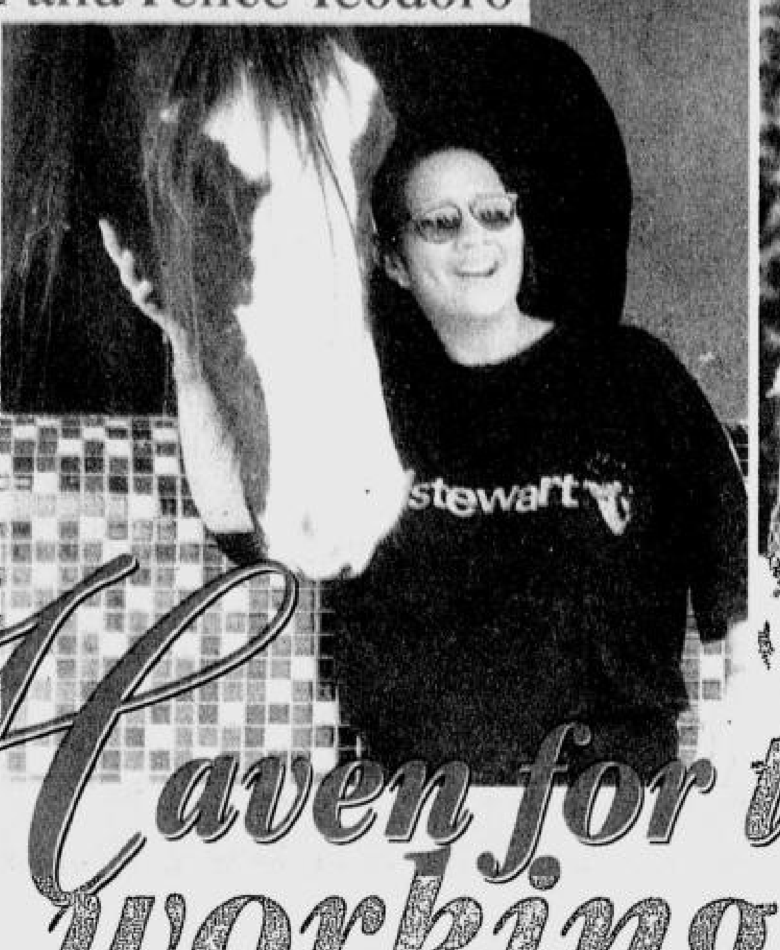
A second wind for Tim and Felice Teodoro

They had everything easy in Brunei, where he trained the sultan's horses. Now they have everything 'familiar and fresh'



FELICE Teodoro with an English-bred shire. Both photos taken at the Royal Brunei Polo Club.

TIM Teodoro on an Argentinian-bred polo pony.

Haven for the working rich

By Teddy Y. Montelibano
Contributor
(Last of six parts)

TIM Teodoro and his wife, the former Felice Yulo, are on their second wind, after the life that most of us can only fantasize about came to a halt.

From 1990 to 1998, Tim was employed in the oil-rich kingdom of Brunei training polo ponies for Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, no less. He was on horseback for most of his waking hours. Which was no problem at all, since riding was a passion that he shared with his wife.

The family lived in a cozy, fully air-conditioned bungalow. Daughters Tasha and Misha studied at the British School, where all expatriates sent their children. Everything—education, health care, groceries, gasoline, household and living expenses, even vacations of four months every two years anywhere they desired—was provided by Tim's employer.

Brunei royalty

In Brunei, house air-conditioning runs the whole day and cannot be turned off even when one goes on vacation.

Felice remembers: "It was surreal. The guy who read our electric meter would call our attention when the reading was low. They didn't like it when we turned off the air-conditioning for any length of time because they said the high humidity caused molds to develop in homes. Besides, electricity was free."

The basic needs of the sultan's subjects are subsidized. Intermittently, they are even treated to concerts featuring celebrity entertainers, like Michael Jackson, at the Royal Jerudong Park, a multimillion-dollar complex that the sultan built as his country's version of Disneyland. All park rides and shows are for free for the subjects, a privilege extended to families of expatriates working for the government, like Tim Teodoro.

Tim worked at the park complex which included the exclusive 18-hole Royal Brunei Golf and Country Club and the magnificent Polo Club. Looking back, he compares his life there to being on an all-expense-paid vacation. "I was being paid to do something I enjoyed."

Back in Manila, his family owned the D'Rossa School of Horsemanship, Asia's first nonexclusive riding school (the school is no more, but D'Rossa continues to make saddles and boots). "When we opened it, we were the only riding school in the region that was open to the public," Tim remembers. "All others were (integrated with) clubs, and anyone who wanted to learn how to ride had to be a member first. In our school, one only had to be enrolled."

Felice Yulo, youngest of the seven children of Pilar Concepcion and Alberto Salas Yulo—sugar planter, cattle breeder, and gentleman farmer—was studying at the Ateneo in Quezon City and had enrolled in a course at D'Rossa. "I was going through my paces astride a horse one day when I saw this thin, dark guy observing me. I thought he was one of the grooms."

As it turned out, he would teach her horsemanship and sweep her off her feet.

Her family was wary of Tim. To start with, he was 11 years older than Felice. Worse, he was known to be a ladies' man, something not lost on Felice's parents. These and other considerations did not sit well with her father.

Alberto Yulo was a formidable man. The only son and heir of Felix Yulo and Teresa Salas, both from old prominent families in Negros Occidental, he was widely respected in the province. He was a man on whose wrong side no one would want to be. It is no exaggeration to say that Tim shook in his boots when circumstances compelled him to fly to Bacolod and ask Yulo for Felice's hand in marriage.

It is said that when Yulo and his prospective son-in-law sat down behind closed doors in the former's office, the latter held a cigar in one hand and a gun in the other. Whether or not this was true, Yulo really had no choice but to let go of his youngest daughter, who was carrying Tim's child. The only time the father spoke to his daughter again was when she gave birth to the first of her two daughters.

Sultan's game

The couple wed in 1985. In 1990, Tim accepted an offer to go to Brunei as one of the sultan's horse trainers. The offer had been extended to him in 1976 by Maj. Christopher Humberry, the sultan's military aide-de-camp who had introduced polo in Brunei and taught Sultan Bolkiah how to play it.

Enamored of the sport the sultan required members of his army to learn, as well, so he would never lack for anyone to play with. Humberry brought the first contingent of Brunei military officers to Manila to be enrolled at D'Rossa, and Teodoro was among those who taught the group.

This included Pengiran Sangjamara Haji Ibnu, who would later manage the Royal Brunei Polo Club.

Tim recalls: "It was an intensive course that lasted a month. We taught them morning and afternoon every day, and used all horses in the school. The sultan paid for the whole thing."

He says D'Rossa was chosen because it was not an exclusive membership club. And he must have done a fine job because some eight months later, Humberry called to ask if Tim would like to work in Brunei.

Teodoro said, "They were looking for a person to run their own polo club. At the time, I did not think it was worth all the trouble of going there."

He received the second offer in 1985 from Pengiran Haji Ibnu, now manager of the Royal Brunei Polo Club. "Pengiran" means "prince" in the Brunei language. Tim was being asked by no ordinary official, but by a member of Brunei's royal family who was also deputy defense minister. "He called me and said I could still work in Brunei if I wanted to," Tim relates. "It was not until 1990 that I said okay."

After the requisite adjustment period in a foreign country, life for the Teodoros was like a dream come true. Tim had gone through an interview required of anyone wishing to be employed in the sultanate. He passed without difficulty and immediately began working at the polo club, where he trained prized animals that the sultan had imported from England. Most, if not all, of Teodoro's fellow trainers were Argentinians, regarded by many who understand the sport as the best polo players in the world.

A frequent visitor to Brunei was then Philippine Agriculture Secretary Carlos Dominguez who told Tim, "*Ang swerte mo* (you're so lucky). You're doing the thing you want and you're getting paid to do it!"

In two years, it became even better. When Tim first worked in Brunei, the polo club had been under the sultan's office, and all the workers were considered government employees. In 1993, Prince Jefri, the sultan's younger brother and Brunei's finance minister, took over and privatized the club. Tim's status was changed to private company employee, a change that came with a substantial pay increase.

"All the trainers' salaries were increased by 50 percent," he recalls. "We were given fantastic yearend bonuses. Once I was given a whole case of Dom Perignon champagne."

Coming home

His luck petered out when the prince's financial affairs started to unravel. There are many versions of this story, and a single conclusion: Jefri's slackness with money became his undoing. His brother had him audited in 1996, and the crash came in 1998. In a move sanctioned by the sultan, the government sued Jefri after the international audit firm Arthur Andersen revealed that the prince had spent almost US$3 billion in 10 years on jewelry, yachts, planes and cars.

In 1998, the prince was dismissed as head of the Brunei Investment Agency which oversaw Brunei's investments overseas. His personal conglomerate, Amedeo Development Corp., collapsed under the weight of debts amounting to US$6 billion. His brother sued him. The suit involved assets in the United States, Paris and London—bluechip properties that included Palace Hotel in New York, Bel-Air Hotel in Los Angeles, Plaza Athenee in Paris and Asprey PLC in London, jewelers to the British royal family.

In March 1998, Tim's contract was up for renewal. "It was approved, along with a salary increase, but already there were signs that the end was coming. Many expats were leaving Brunei."

The prince fled to London in 1998. In June of the same year, Tim was retrenched. He was the last of the trainers employed by the Jerudong Park Polo Club to be given walking papers. In October of the same year, the Teodoros left the sultanate to begin anew in the Philippines.

They headed for the Yulo house in Bacolod. By then, Tim and his father-in-law had become friends. "They have a common denominator—horses," Felice says. In fact, there was more: they had the same blood type. So that when Alberto Yulo, during the last of his days, needed blood transfusion, Tim was the major donor.

Meanwhile, the Teodoros adjusted well. Bacolod has a relaxed pace akin to Brunei's. The children were enrolled at De La Salle Bacolod, where they found friends fast. "I had no problem with the move, because as long as you have friends, you'll be okay. And I have friends among the 'horse people' in Bacolod," Tim says.

Not many raised horses or rode horseback in the city, but the few who did, he was comfortable with. Also, he was really no stranger to Bacolod. He had gone to the local branch of Don Bosco when he was young, and sold horses to Negrense equestrian aficionados, like the Eduardo Garcias.

This was not the same Bacolod that they came home to, however. Long before Yulo died, he had voluntarily given up most of his landholdings to the government. The family kept enough for his widow and, although not one of them remained there, his children.

Familiar feeling

Today, Tim shuttles between Bacolod and Manila. He crafts custom-made boots for the Philippine National Police, among other clients, in the tradition of Ang Tibay Shoes, which his late grandfather founded. He also supplies horses to enthusiasts all over the country.

Felice has gone into the fast-food business. Together they supply ponies to a local stable built by the provincial government for public leisure. Likewise, they are set to open a riding school in Bacolod.

Then there is Prudencia, the farm owned by Felice's paternal grandmother in Ma-ao, some 40 km south of Bacolod. She and her husband maintain a stable here, where their daughters, both accomplished equestriennes, spend hours riding. At the same time, Felice has gone into a silkworm culture venture on with the Organization for Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement, a Japanese foundation.

She sums up their present life together: "When I wake up every day, I look out the window and all I see around me are familiar–trees, plants, all these green things. The air I breathe is clean and fresh, and I know I'm really finally home."

A leap of faith with SE T610

By Cherish Garcia-Hernandez
Contributor

HAVING been a Nokia user since the advent of cellular technology, I suffered withdrawal symptoms as I transferred the sim card from my 7250 to the new Sony Ericsson T610 for a test run.

The successor to the T68, the T610 offers everything the T68 does, and more. As I admired the sleek design–two-toned finish of black piano contrasting with brushed aluminum–I turned it on and started fidgeting with the menu. I confess that I never read instruction manuals; they're just too tedious and confusing.

I was immediately impressed with the large full-color screen. This tri-band GPRS cell phone's terminal is top of the line, with a 65,000-color display range and a resolution of 128 x 160 pixels. I must say it is definitely vivid and clear, a far cry from its predecessors.

The T610 works pretty much like most cell phones. Once you master its short-cut keys, it becomes even more user-friendly. It also has 12 icons especially positioned for easy access and a joystick to help you navigate through them. The joystick also makes gaming more involving and immediate. The T610 supports Java standard for downloading and personalizing games and applications on your terminal through the Synergenix Morphum platform, which means that, as far as entertainment goes, this phone goes the extra mile. But that's just peripheral.

Experience sharing

One of the T610's unique features is what it calls "Quick Share." Simply put, this means less steps to get your multi-media messages across. The built-in camera has dedicated side buttons for easy use. And for narcissists who love taking pictures of themselves, there is a tiny concave mirror that reflects your image as the camera sees it. Actually this is really cool because if you and a friend want to capture your images on your phone, sometimes it takes several tries and one of you comes out with half a face. This is a small detail, but really innovative.

A software suite application allows you to create a complete MMS message, including sound, text and images, and then upload them to your phone via Bluetooth or otherwise. The newly created message is then saved as a template that you can use to create new messages from within the phone.

Connectivity?
Innovative details?
This is it!

With its multi-media function, the T610 can be a real imaging device. The built-in camera even has effects like sepia and night mode. Add to these accessories like phone flash, and one can take pretty decent photographs! Check out www.t-six-ten.com to see what I mean. This monthly online magazine showcases the best in mobile photography. Click on the "featured artist" series, and see a collection of photos taken by celebrities around the world commissioned to get creative with the Sony Ericsson T610.

Endless possibilities

For those obsessed with ring tones and wallpapers, there is a huge variety available, both on the phone and through downloading. The 32-voice polyphonic feature of the T610 made my old 7250's polyphonic ring tone sound flat. The music DJ Melody composer also allows you to compose songs in MIDI format, or modify existing melody bases for your ring tones. This makes the possibilities endless! People who revel in personalizing their phones will have the time of their lives.

Tech-savvy users will love the connectivity options; in fact, even the average user will appreciate its multi-media capabilities. I'd say the Sony Ericsson T610 combines the best features of the T68 with the best features of the Nokia 7650 and 7250. With a weight of only 95 grams, the T610 is also very easy to carry around. It has 400 hours standby time and 14 hours talk time as well.

Cellular technology just keeps getting better and better. I have to say two days with the T610, and I'm a convert. If connectivity is your top requirement, this is it. Of course with its sleek design, it's also a great accessory. Many people lament that as soon as they get the latest phone, something better comes out. Well, how could anything be better than a combination of Japanese and Swedish technology?

Email the author at cherishgh@yahoo.com

So much to eat, so little time!

By Meluchi A. Rivera
Contributor

A hurried food trip in Boracay, worthy destination for culinary adventure

NAMI's garlic fettucine: "Sloppy Cow" heaped onto a bed of flat noodles.

FRIDAY'S grilled salmon nicoise on potato mash always a winner.

FUNNY how Boracay, a tiny dot of an island, could give Manila a run for its money when it comes to the range of cuisine available to the hungry traveler.

Our trip hits the start of the lean season; thus, the strip of cafés, bars and restaurants south of Boat Station 1 is calm, almost sedated. Meanwhile, at the northern end of White Beach, where Friday's, Pearl of the Pacific, Sea Wind and their ilk have always catered to those seeking peace and quiet, it is almost deathly (in our eyes, wonderfully) still. We reckon it's a great time to go on a Boracay food trip, without the jostling crowds. While not all places will be open, at least we'll get good service at those that are.

Nami

The first order of business is to try out Manami Bar & Restaurant, part of the seven-month-old Nami resort along Diniwid Beach. The resort caters to the high-end market, literally and figuratively, with rooms perched 20 meters above the shoreline.

As we are not guests of the resort, we take a footpath beyond the confines of White Beach. We navigate a small, rocky cove before catching sight of Nami's cliffside villas. A construction elevator takes us up to the dining area, hungry, hot, disheveled and wet (the footpath disappears at some point, and we had to wade along the shore).

Nami's flier promises global fusion cuisine, which means there are Filipino, Spanish and other continental dishes on the menu. We order from their efficient staff and take in the view as we await our food. When my dish arrives, I feel a quick pang of déjà vu and recognize a dish I've met somewhere before. And no wonder: the chef who put this menu together, Jovencio "Jigs" Rondollo, is also responsible for Tequila Joe's signature dishes. My garlic fetuccine with tenderloin tips and roasted garlic is TJ's famed Sloppy Cow heaped onto a bed of flat noodles.

I wish I could say this new version is a success, but it isn't. While I enjoy the dish at TJ's, the saucy chunks of beef and garlic are just too rich for pasta. The lowly *kanin* is its perfect foil, and one must not mess with that. Two seats to my right, a friend downs his meal of *salpicao* on rice sans complaint.

Alas, the view must make up for a couple of shortcomings, including the chef's intense love for the salt shaker. Among our group of nine, four find their food too salty.

There are, however, some of us who come away very happy. My husband says his fillet of beef on a bed of *kangkong* with bordelaise sauce was quite good, if a tad overdone for medium rare. The waiter reveals that they use Australian tenderloin, which would make the dish a steal at P450. Another friend says she enjoyed her potato-crusted salmon with pineapple-bourbon sauce.

Gasthof

We work off lunch with a flurry of sunbathing, and later walk the kilometer to the (atrociously named) D'Mall in search of grilled seafood dinner. We settle on Gasthof, a quirky German deli-cum-grillerie. It has an indoor delicatessen where one can get sandwiches and cuts of meat, sausages, cheeses, and an odd assortment of imported dried goods. Out front, a large open-air grill offers up surf and turf, *turo-turo* style.

Much of the dining area consists of an appropriated square of beachfront. Here, as in other places on the strip, patrons dine al fresco under the sun, or the moon and stars, with their feet in the sand. For added ambiance, there are monobloc dining sets and incandescent bulbs hung low on coconut tree trunks.

Like the surroundings, the food is unpretentious–but it hits the spot. Servings come with a cup of garlic rice but no other sidings (i.e., no veggies). The tuna belly dish takes a while in coming, but it deserves a mention. No one orders crab but we see them, fat and luscious and very much alive. Oddly, the high point of the meal takes place when someone discovers the bevy of fruit shakes being offered.

We soon have the bar busy with orders of their *buko*, banana, mango and tropical (combination of all fruits) shakes. They arrive, thick and overflowing, in tall parfait glasses. We take a sip, widen our eyes with glee, then quickly finish them off.

Friday's

Our second day finds us on a quiet stroll northward, with our stomachs directing us to the quiet patch of sand fronting Friday's. This is familiar territory, and a great setting for a low-key but sumptuous meal for two. My husband beats me to the punch by ordering the day's three-course special; I settle for an appetizer of carpaccio of Yapak yellow fin tuna, and the Indian-style seafood curry with *naan* and *raita*.

The delightful lunch set starts with cream of carrot and cardamon soup, nicely aromatic, with the carrots mashed finely but still surprisingly crisp. I know, because I have more than a few sips from my husband's bowl. When his appetizer arrives, the chopped smoked salmon with garlic mayonnaise on toasted bruschetta looks so appealing I simply swipe his plate. This dish is wonderful, with even flavors–the sweetness of the roasted garlic is just a match for the saltiness of the smoked fish. Not that my husband gets a bad trade; the tuna carpaccio is topped with chopped capers, grated egg whites, cucumber and onions, and is so fresh it needs but a few drops of olive oil.

I let him enjoy the main course of grilled salmon nicoise on pumpkin potato mash and lemon butter sauce–it is his meal, after all. He chomps merrily away while I work on the curry, with cuts of *lapu-lapu*, salmon, squid, shrimp, eggplants and tomatoes. I ignore the rice, having had too much to eat at this point, and use the accompanying bread (which looks more like *pita* to me) to sop up the sweetish sauce.

We burp happily and refuse dessert, which I later find out to be a mistake. A local chides me for missing out on Friday's cheesecakes and other sweet offerings. But we are sated and ready for our naps, thank you.

Dos Mestizos

The afternoon seems to fly, and after a visit to the market, numerous dips in the sea, a massage and a foot spa, we are again ready to eat. We rejoin our group of friends at Dos Mestizos and prepare to gorge on some Spanish food for our last real meal on the island.

We sample their *paellas negra, marinara* and *valenciana*. We also order gambas and their signature *tapa*, the *chistorra* Javier, and are rewarded with large prawns swimming in butter and garlic and an intense, savory *chorizo*. The *pescado a la vizcaina* is another winner, with marinated fillets of *lapu-lapu* served in a sauce of tomatoes, olives and potatoes. Judging from the lack of conversation around the table, the meal is proceeding really well. There are no crestfallen looks or befuddled expressions. We have found what we came for: serious eating.

Ahh, so many restos, so little time! All food trips must come to an end.

* * *

To this day, I think of this eye-catching Japanese restaurant at D'Mall which we failed to sample. Also the sleek new Italian restaurant, Aria, which my local source recommended. And yet another dining experience to look forward to–at the Mandala Spa's soon-to-open restaurant.

Next time around, definitely.

at the SURPLUS SHOP
KNIT PEDALS FOR LESS

Pedal pushers are making a big comeback and their moment in the fashion scene comes courtesy of Surplus Shop, that "fashion for so much less" apparel store brimming with fabulous choices of heavenly ready-to-wear items at down-to-earth price tags.

Located within SM Supermalls, SM Department Stores and SM Supercenter Sucat, Surplus Shop carries a wide selection of ready-to-wear fashions.

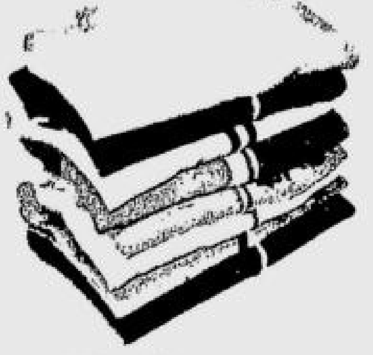
Surplus Shop's wide mix of affordable and fashionable clothes highlight its claim of "fashion for less."

Pedal Footnotes

Pedal pushers were the invention of Margit Fellegi, a California-based swimwear designer, the same lady who pioneered the two-piece bathing suit.

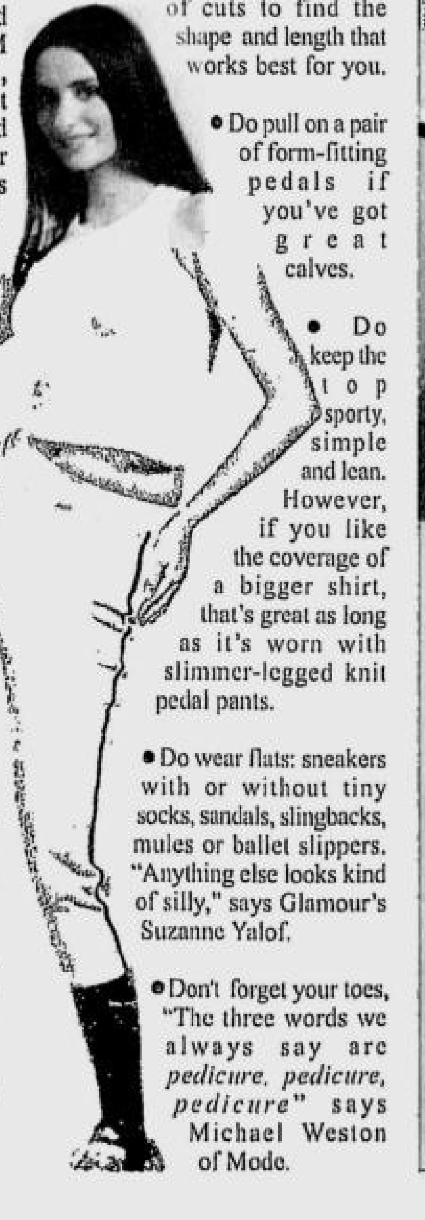
Irritated by the way the cuff of her pants got caught in her bicycle chain, Fellegi cut off a pair of her pants way below the knees, thereby devising a shorter version. The name "pedal pushers" has stuck to this day.

Surplus Shop's pedals come in colors that are easily matchable with the sporty tops of your choice.



Riding high on fashion's comeback trail, this stack of knit pedal pants are accented with striped side bands. Take your pick at your neighborhood Surplus Shop oulet.

A User's Guide to Pedal Pants



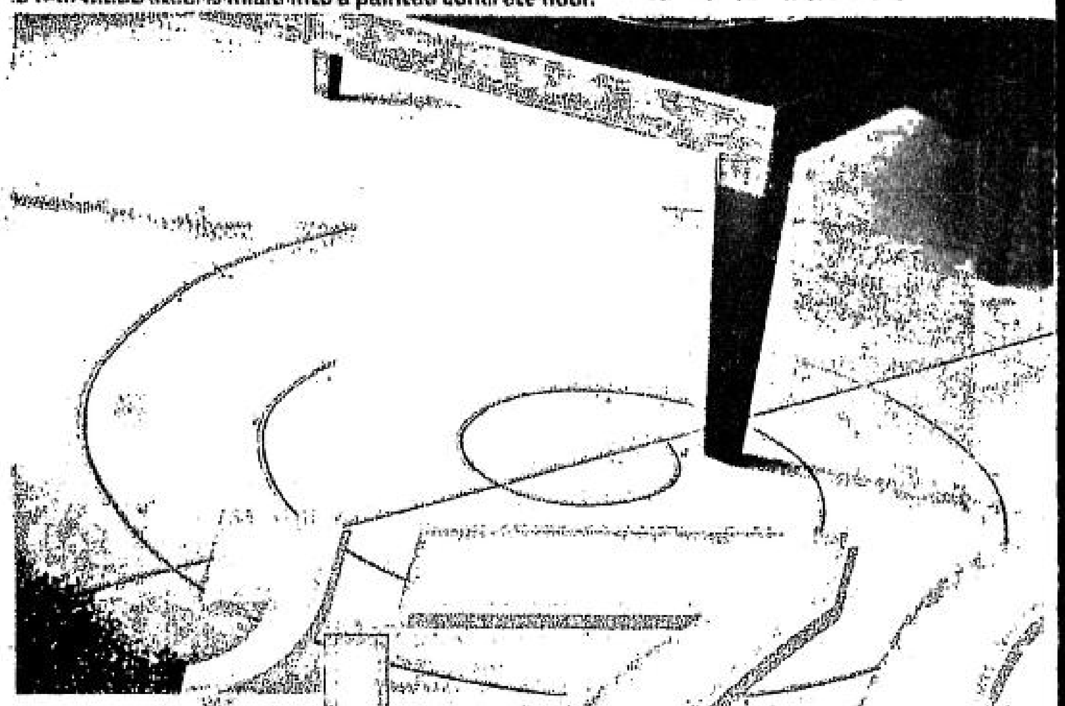
- Do try a wide variety of cuts to find the shape and length that works best for you.
- Do pull on a pair of form-fitting pedals if you've got great calves.
- Do keep the top sporty, simple and lean. However, if you like the coverage of a bigger shirt, that's great as long as it's worn with slimmer-legged knit pedal pants.
- Do wear flats: sneakers with or without tiny socks, sandals, slingbacks, mules or ballet slippers. "Anything else looks kind of silly," says Glamour's Suzanne Yalof.
- Don't forget your toes, "The three words we always say are *pedicure, pedicure, pedicure*" says Michael Weston of Mode.

Knit pedal pants with side bands
149 75/Ea.

SURPLUS SHOP
FASHION FOR LESS
SM Supermalls • SM Department Stores
SM Supercenter Sucat

By Melochi A. Rivera, Contributor • Photos by Bobot Meru

STAINLESS steel is inlaid into a painted concrete floor.



LEATHER and steel dining chairs attend a steel, glass and aluminum table in the dining area. The hallway leads to a small office and the master bedroom.

cool 7

from tacky to hip: design consultant Jim Tan uses dated detail as take-off point to arrive at a final look that's masculine but warm, low-fuss but high-impact

CUBIC banig-clad ottomans play geometric games with square-back chairs. China cabinet doors further echo rectilinear scheme. Background wall is sheathed in frosted glass panels.

A LEATHER-clad table serves the conversation area. Additional lighting from a resin floor lamp. Mirrored niche displays a wooden mask from Bali.

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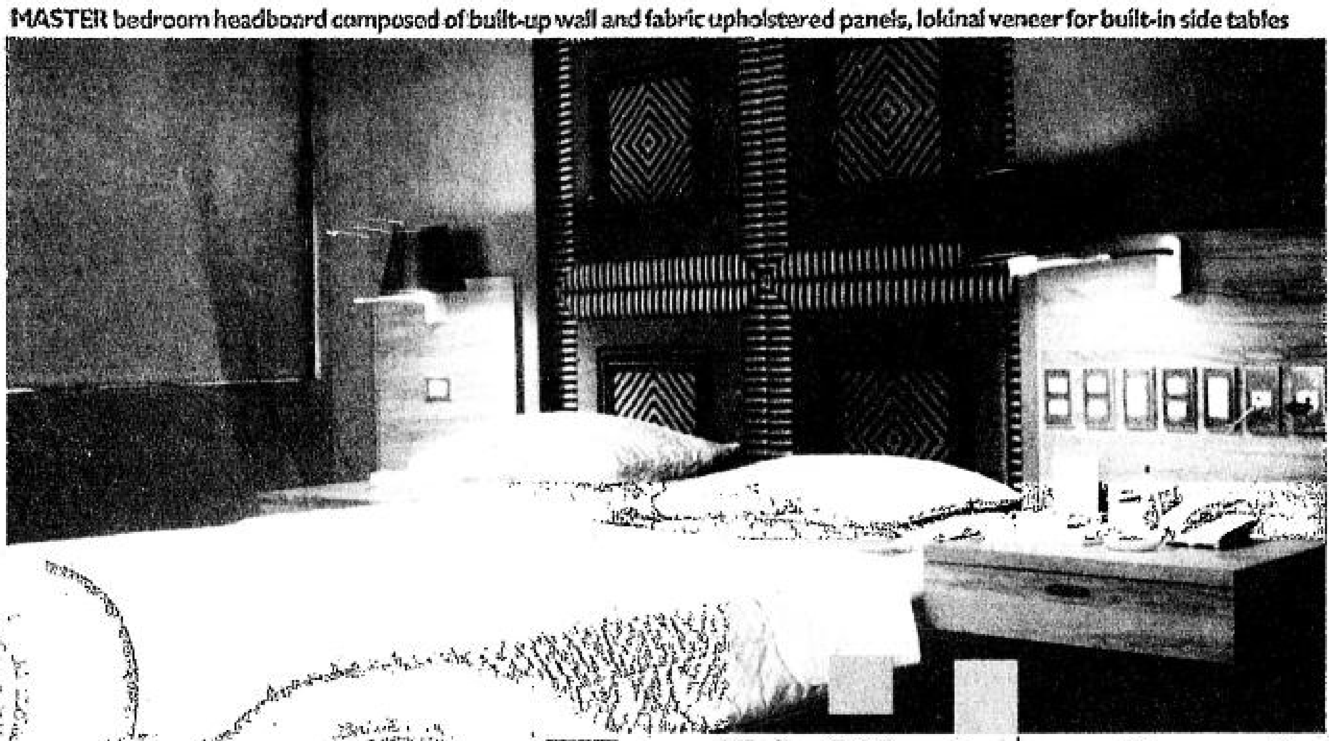
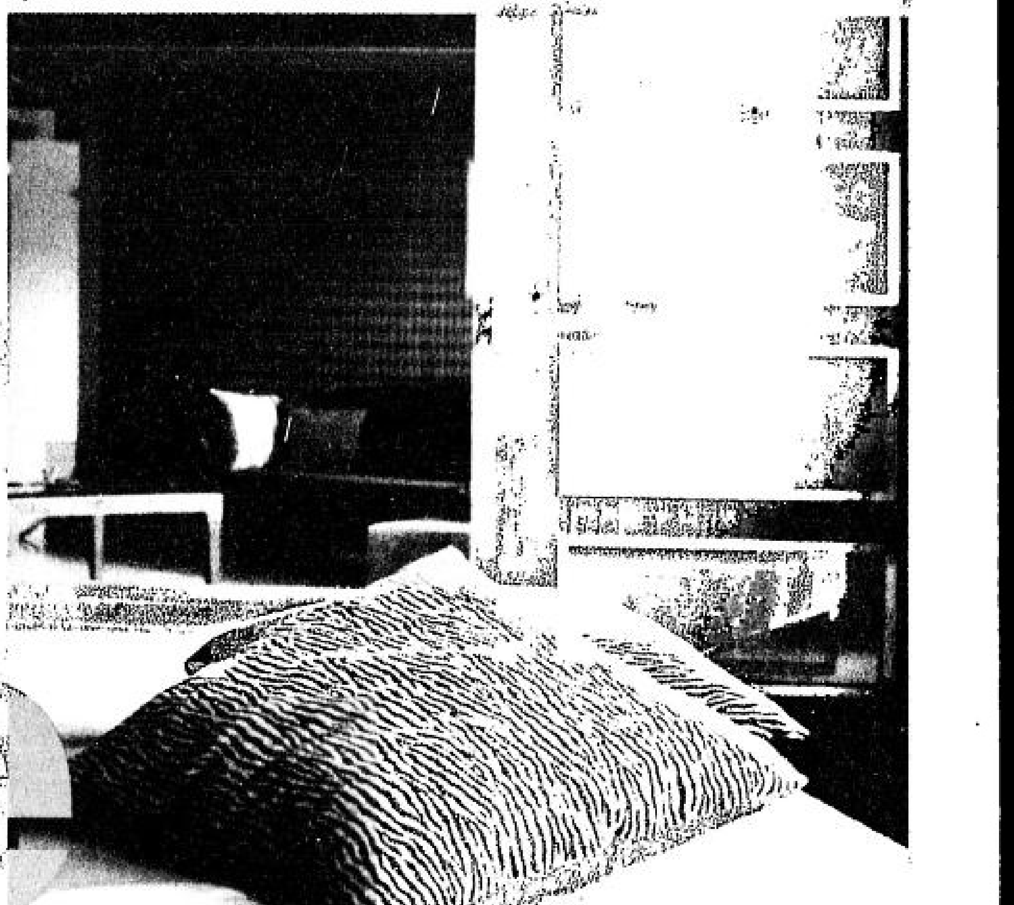
AN

MASTER bedroom headboard composed of built-up wall and fabric upholstered panels, lokinal veneer for built-in side tables



SOUND system cabinet door clad in walnut veneer. Soft-lit frosted glass panels trimmed with aluminum. Mirrored wall reflect suspended track lights and fabric-upholstered walls.



S vibe

IT HAS been said that necessity is the mother of invention.

In the case of this bachelor pad in Makati, design consultant Jim Tan wanted to gut the place to its barest bones but faced a dilemma with the living room's main wall. Made of a line of glass windows and a door leading to a narrow balcony, this section was part of the whole building's façade and thus could not be remade. The design allowed in plenty of light, but the bronze anodized aluminum framing recalled those widely used in small banks in the late '70s. Very institutional-looking. And to some, downright tacky.

Tan refused to be stumped, and instead used these drab fixtures as a take-off point for a rich and warm color scheme. First, he brought in the walls slightly, framed sections with wood painted a dark moccha, then blanketed these in swathes of olive silk jacquard cloth. He had small alcoves built into the walls for added interest. To keep the space from feeling too closed in, he lined one segment with glass, and proceeded to have this lit from below by installing pin lights within a low counter of white, molded concrete.

Seeing infinity

The ceiling was given nothing more than a textured paint finish of dark green and ochre. "You should see this at night; the effect is like being in outer space," Tan chuckles. He wants to debunk the myth that dark colors make a room smaller. As he explains it, dark colors make the room appear seamless, making them look like they go on and on. "It's like seeing infinity," he says simply.

With so much already going on at the room's outer shell, furniture pieces were chosen for their uncluttered, linear designs. For his client, Tan looked no farther than the Glorietta mall and bought all the pieces off the floor–sofa and armchair from Julienne Collection, cowhide chair and coffee table from Kish, woven leather ottomans from Atmosphera.

Still, the pieces seem to echo the living room's mantra: *Texture, texture, texture.*

In cold contrast just a few steps away, the dining area is given a clean, spare treatment. Panels of sand-blasted glass line the wall leading to the kitchen. An Italian metal-and-leather dining room set sits below a pendant "ice cube" lamp.

Undoubtedly, this is a man's lair.

The master bedroom is dominated by a large metal entertainment center held aloft by a steel bar. Made-to-measure shelves hold framed photos, books and the odd golf trophy. The padded headboard in a strong pattern gives the room visual interest.

Further proof of the occupant's masculine nature is the stark bathroom settings. Tan is most pleased with the outcome of the three bathrooms, given that he had to work with such limited space and odd configurations. The designer used French and Italian fixtures, including toilet bowls designed by Philippe Starck. Sand-blasted glass and touches of aluminum complete the look.

The unit's entire flooring was redone, with Tan taking particular care to use the same oversized granite tile everywhere. The living room, the master bedroom, study, guestroom, the three bathrooms, kitchen, and even the maid's room are covered with it. No carpets or rugs here; instead, Tan ingeniously used other materials to delineate specific areas. In the living room, the central space sits atop a square of textured concrete inlaid with stainless steel. This artful trick succeeds in creating a space that is intimate, yet open and free-flowing.

Hip strips

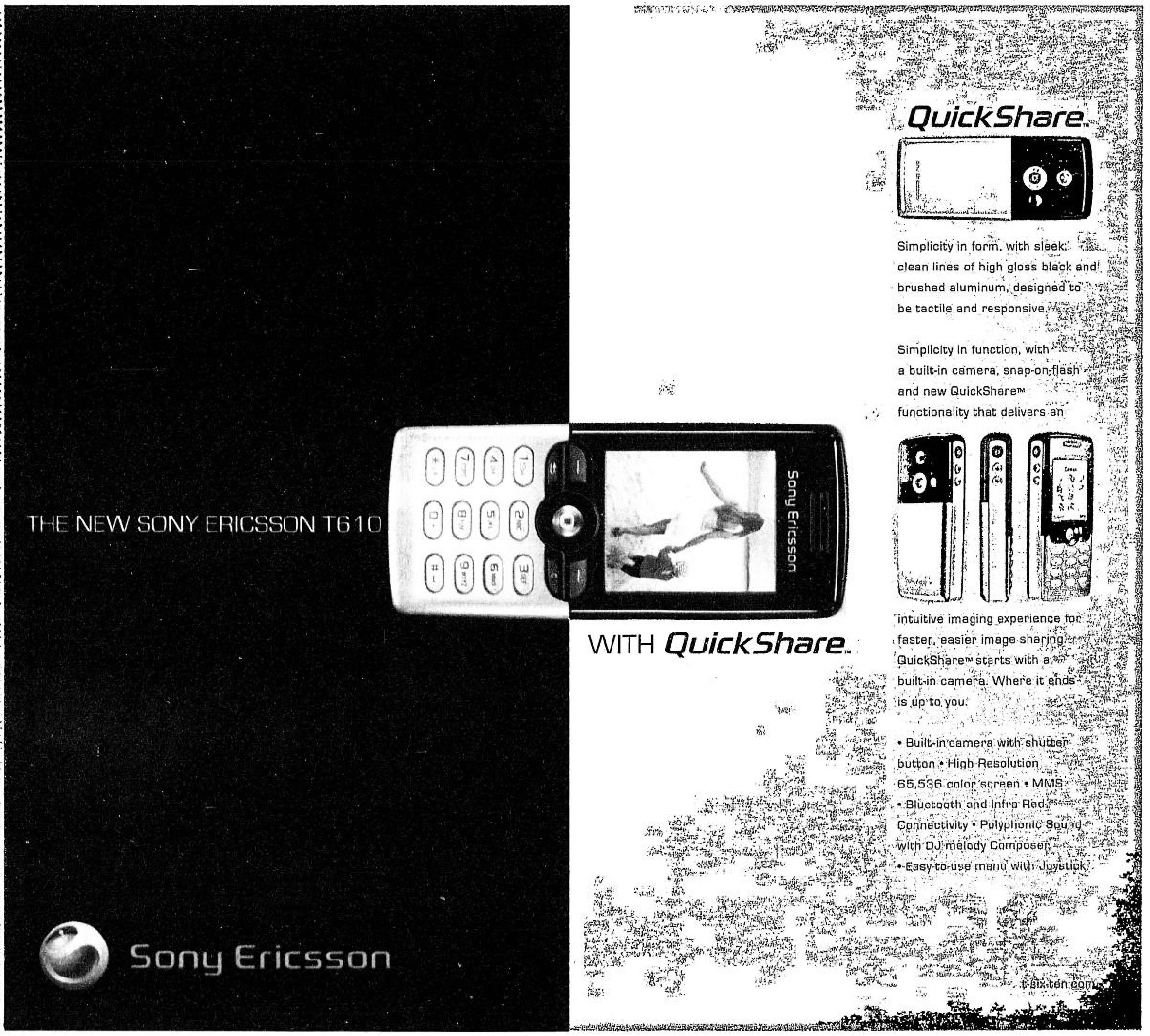
The designer speaks excitedly about the potentials of concrete as a design element. "I've made various kinds of furniture out of molded concrete. Sometimes, I have the items embedded with metal or natural objects. It can literally follow your every whim."

Tan has a noticeable attraction for using humble materials such as concrete and aluminum in new ways to give an area added punch. He uses plain aluminum throughout the flat instead of the cliché (and flashier) gleam of chrome or stainless steel. He uses strips of it to line a thin panel of wood cornice that separates the living room wall from the ceiling. More aluminum strips frame multiple panes of sand-blasted glass (another favorite material) in the living room's tall cabinet doors. And corrugated aluminum siding–the kind used to build cabs or delivery vans–is used underneath the bathroom sinks.

He is not above using wood veneer for shelving, either. He explains nonchalantly: "It's more environment-friendly."

In this instance, Tan has succeeded in turning the space into one that is masculine yet warm; high-impact but low-fuss. Perfect for the flat's occupant, a successful bachelor who heads a local cable company.

Who would have thought that those unfashionable fixtures with a tacky '70s vibe would end up spawning this cool bachelor's lair with a . . . distinctly hip '70s vibe? Tan shows that it's all in the eye of the beholder.



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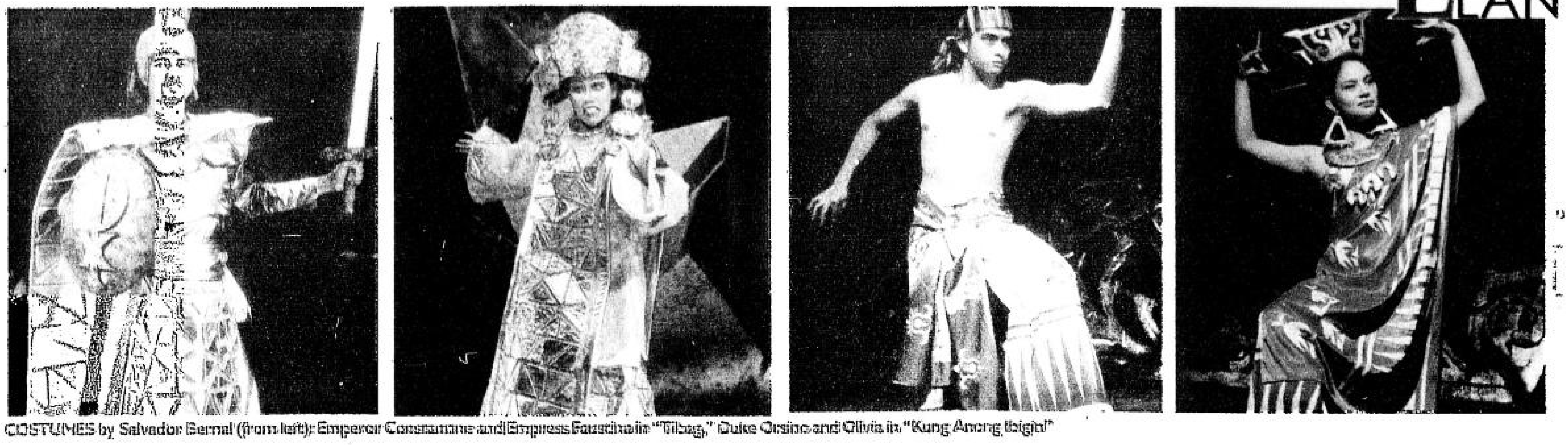
COSTUMES by Salvador Bernal (from left): Emperor Constantine and Empress Faustina in "Tibag," Duke Orsino and Olivia in "Kung Anong Ibig"

'The soul of a child, the constancy of a lover'

By Leovino Ma. Garcia
Contributor

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It certainly helps, in the case of unparalleled theater designer Salvador Floro Bernal, that he has created a brilliant body of more than 300 productions distinguished for their originality, professionalism, and excellence. Also, that he continues to generously share his exceptional talent and skills with students (he is quick to spot and develop the promising ones) and young designers; and as President of the Philippine Association of Theater Designers and Technicians and the Philippine Center of IOSTAT (International Organization of Scenographers, Technicians and Architects of the Theatre), speaks for them in international conferences in Tokyo, Helsinki, Stockholm, Pittsburgh, and Manila.

Deep roots

A major requirement is to remain so deeply rooted and confident in one's own culture that there is no more need to self-consciously proclaim one's being Filipino. "Badong" Bernal is at ease with Gerard Manley Hopkins and T.S. Eliot, with Wagner and Schubert, as with Nick Joaquin and Jose Garcia Villa, with Ang Kiukok and Lao Lianben. Without batting an eyelash, he can shift from designing gowns for Kuh, Sharon, Regine, or Nora, to creating magnificent sets and costumes for, say, "Realizing Rama" which has been shown in 13 Asian nations and in Europe.

No testimony is more eloquent of Badong's commitment to his art and fidelity to his beginnings than his perseverance to use as his creative workshop since the 1960s his family residence in the very heart of Cubao, within spitting distance from Nepa-Q Mart. It is here that he serves his close friends sumptuous Sunday lunches and much food for thought.

Field of grace

A true artist can never escape his background. He will have to create from what is given. From his mother, Ubalda Floro, who designed *ternos* in a Dagupan shop in the '50s, the young Bernal inherited an overwhelming passion and stamina for work. In the poem "Rhapsody," from The Firetrees Burn All Summer and Other Poems (the School of Humanities Outstanding Creative Work of 2001), Bernal evokes his mother as "Spouse to vain brocades, / Lady of persevering pleats and pointed darts, / Mother of gauze, poplins, and damasks."

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Going by Dr. Gemino Abad's insightful observation, to read Bernal's poems is to enter "a field of spiritual energy" and "special grace." If, on the one hand, there is the world we live in, and on the other hand, the language we speak, the goal of poetry, Abad says, is "to carry the world we cherish over to text." The poet is he who "almost successfully" ferries our lived world across to incarnate word. For Dr. Soledad S. Reyes, Bernal possesses this "rare gift for deftly conveying finely nuanced feelings in extraordinarily patterned and highly textured images." Salvador Bernal is indeed a poet.

Child at heart

He is also a philosopher.

Thomas Aquinas says the poet and the philosopher resemble each other in that they both concern themselves with the marvelous–the mirandum.

Trained to see with the mind's eye, Bernal has delivered the true meaning of "thea" in "theatre"–that "contemplative vision" or "loving gaze" of reality. Poet, philosopher, visionary–Bernal is the quintessential artist, sometimes quick-tempered, oftentimes speaking out his honest mind, firmly rooted in local reality and conversant with the global theater community.

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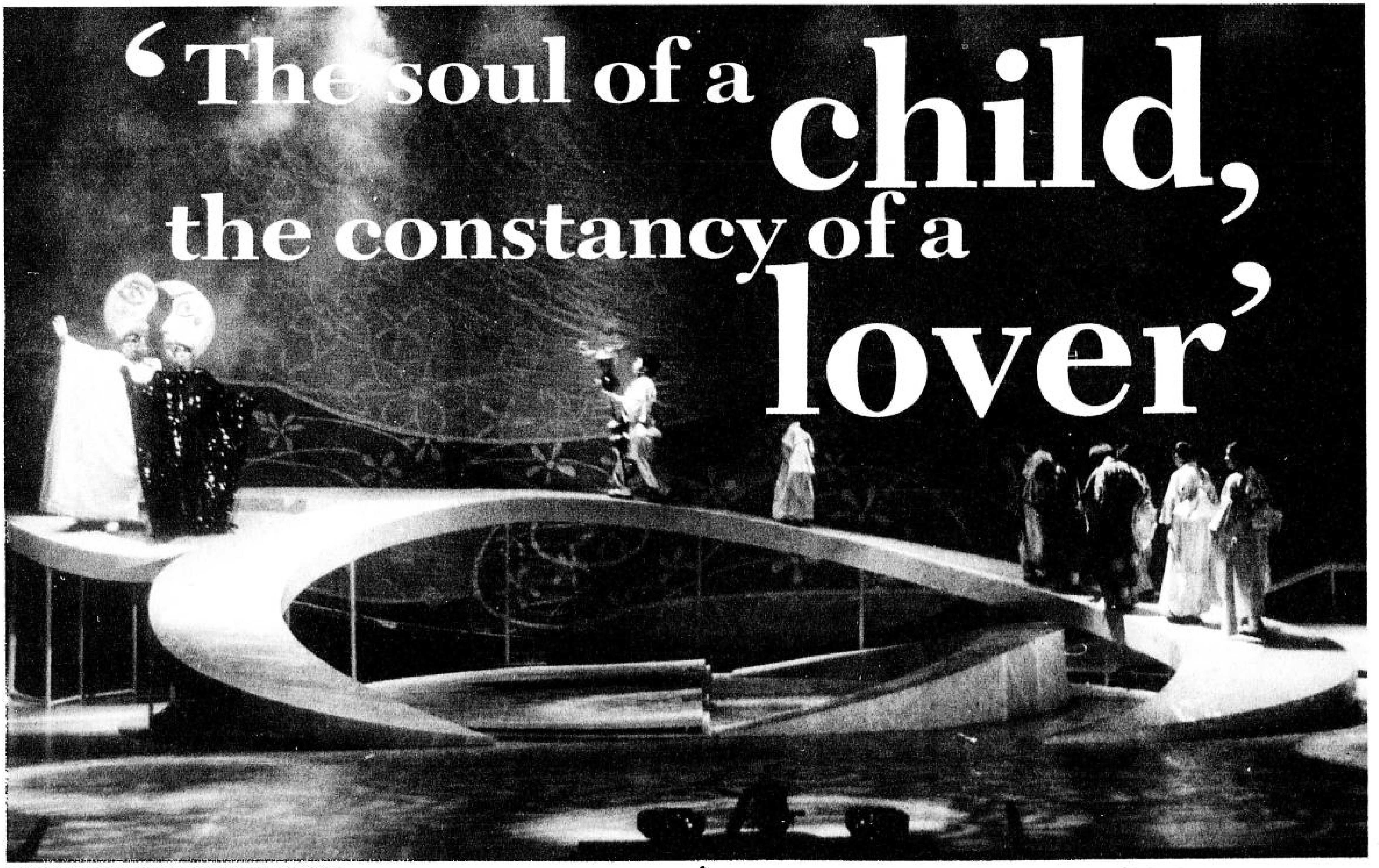
ANOTHER original Bernal set in "The Magic Staff"

Spotted at new Dusit night spot

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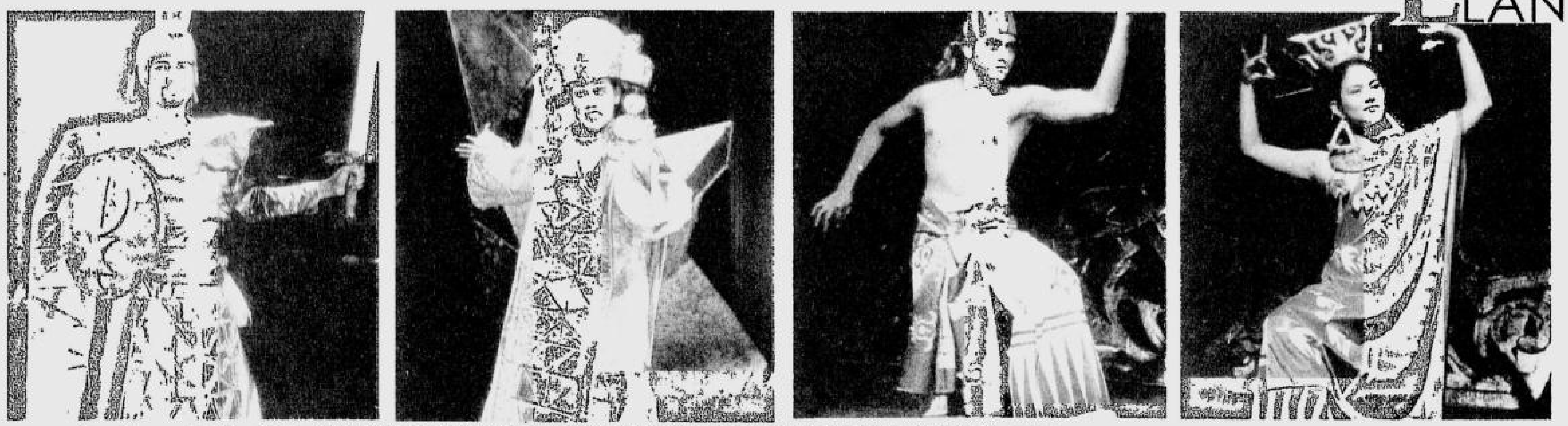

[illegible] Emperor Constantine and Empress Faustina in "Tibag," Duke Orsino and Olivia in "Kung Ano [illegible]

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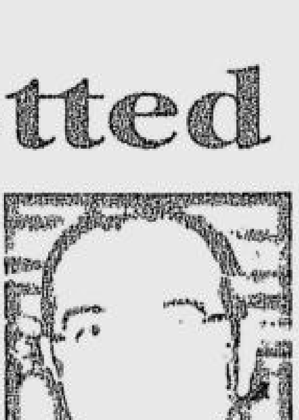

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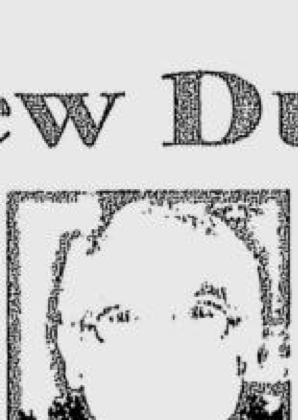

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REVIEW

Why do you paint your face?

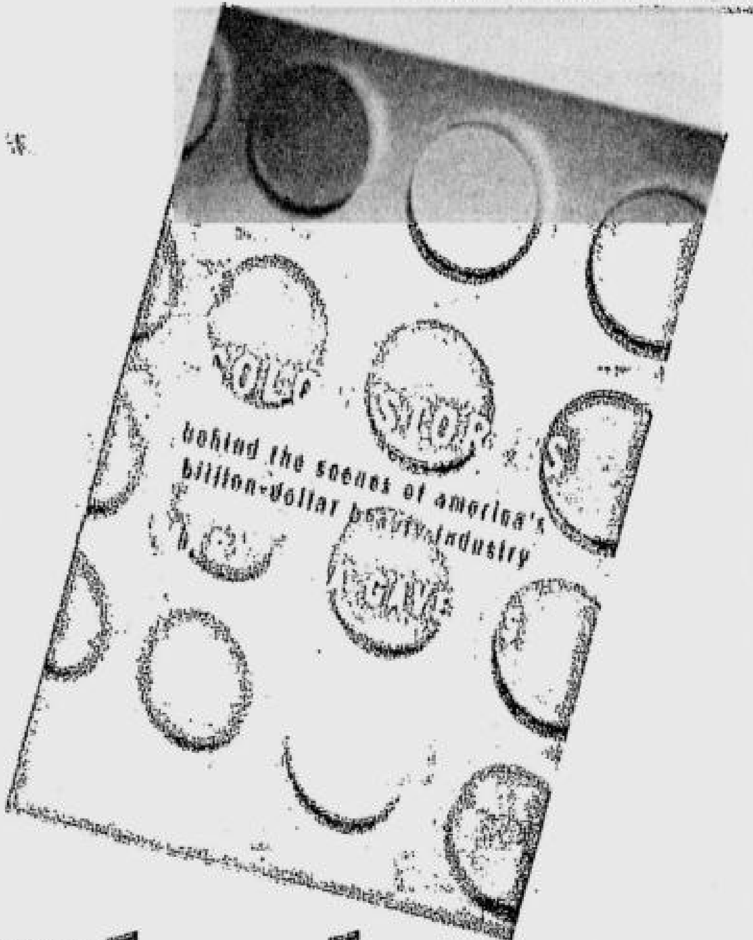
By Cherish Garcia-Hernandez
Contributor

Color Stories
"Behind the scenes of America's billion-dollar beauty industry"
By Mary Lisa Gavenas, Simon and Schuster, 212 pages

MEN will never understand how women can own dozens of lipsticks that are all variations of the same color. But ladies, I'm sure you'll agree with me when I say that MAC's Russian Red is for when we want to make a bold statement in the evening and its Lychee Luxe Lipgloss is for when we want our lips to look natural, only prettier. Men cannot relate to how certain situations call for Lancôme's Juicy Tubes while others simply warrant a swipe of Clinique's Almost Lipstick in Black Honey.

Mary Lisa Gavenas, former beauty editor of Glamour, Mirabella and In Style demystifies the multi-billion cosmetics industry in her book, Color Stories. She deconstructs women's never-ending love affair with makeup and the methodical madness behind big names like Revlon, Estée Lauder, Elizabeth Arden and many more. She takes the reader behind the scenes of a sometimes corrupt industry that will stop at nothing in their manipulation of aesthetics and selling all sorts of false hopes to feed women's fantasies.

When we open a magazine like Allure, we are faced with photos of genetically blessed women that have, nonetheless, been airbrushed to perfection. Naturally the effect is awesome. Only two things can happen. We are either to emulate the look, or our self esteem plummets. We look in the mirror, and what was perfectly acceptable five minutes ago suddenly seems terribly flawed. Either way, how we react is exactly how the cosmetic companies want us to, because it will eventually lead us to them. Yes, this is an extremely Machiavellian industry.


Color Stories
behind the scenes of america's billion-dollar beauty industry

How it starts

According to Gavenas, the spell starts with a "color story." This is beauty industry speak for a company's seasonal collection of lipstick, eye shadow and nail polish, along with advertising slogans that tie them together. Despite what consumers think, current must-have colors actually change very little from one season to the next. Most of the time they are plucked from old "color stories" and given new names.

The subliminal power of these names should never be underestimated. When a plain housewife visits the cosmetics counter that has invited her to "Go Tropical" with images of sandy beaches, she is magically transformed into a bronze goddess with a little bronzing powder and shimmery eye shadow.

Ordinary colors are no longer enough; names like Bamboo Pink and Ruby Stain also add to the appeal. Behold all those women sitting through makeovers, patiently listening to the salesladies' spiel. You just know they will buy all those products in a while. Makeup's ability to transform is the cheapest way to boost the spirit when one is feeling a bit worn out. What a woman wants from makeup cannot always be quantified, this is why we buy tubes of wax with pigments at a huge mark-up over the modest cost of production. Lipstick takes less than one dollar to make and often sells at up to $12.

Fascinating read

Color Stories, the book, also takes us behind the scenes as we follow the famous Cindy Crawford through a Revlon shoot and see why she is being paid millions of dollars to promote a product. Gavenas reveals that every time Crawford appears on the cover of a magazine, makeup credits would be only Revlon, even if other brands were used on her. Same goes for Elizabeth Hurley for (Estée Lauder) and other endorsers.

Even makeup artists with their own line, like Bobbi Brown and Linda Cantello, don't use their lines exclusively when doing makeup for fashion shows. Ever wonder how certain magazines tout certain looks and products, and how these products are nothing like the colors we see in magazines when we see them up close? That's because most professional make-up artists have companies like MAC custom make certain colors for them that are actually never sold in stores. So much for truth in advertising.

Color Stories is filled with interesting details that make it a fascinating read weather or not you're into makeup. Gavenas even touches on how early women's rights activists saw makeup as a badge of courage because "painting your face meant writing your own story, independent of whatever your husband or father had drawn up." And not only does she discuss the big guns like Helena Rubenstein and Mary Kay; she also talks about small companies like Urban Decay, which translated a trend started by Chanel's classic "Vamp" into $9-million sales in its first year of operation.

Gavenas also exposes the industry's corrupt side and constant refusal to comply with FDA rules and regulations.One note of interest is the popularity of whitening products, especially in Asia. I don't know how stringent our regulations are, but Gavenas explains how large amounts of the whitening agent hydroquinone can cause long-term adverse effects.

Good or bad, the beauty industry is here to stay and will continue to grow. I have to admit, I love playing with makeup and will continue to buy it because, as Paco Underhill succinctly puts it, "Every cosmetic purchase involves a moment of reverie, where the woman is transformed from the person she is, to the person she'd like to be."

This doesn't mean that physical perfection is all that matters, or that we are beautifying ourselves to appeal to the opposite sex. I believe that the modern woman dresses and fixes herself up for her own satisfaction. I remain a firm believer that women should cultivate their intelligence and inner being to increase their self-worth. But if a swipe of lipstick could make you more attractive in the process, then why not?

E-mail the author at cherishgh@yahoo.com

Turn up the heat

Photos by Patrick Uy • Pictorial direction by Antonio Salac Santos

MAC draws inspiration from backstage goings-on during fashion shows where new products, textures and colors are tested. This month, the Tan Ray collection evokes the sun-drenched glow, consisting of dust-on and liquid bronzes. Tan Ray is also called the "new natural:" the skin looks dewy with ultra-refined tones of bronze, beige and gold, accentuated with sheer splashes of of neon pink, melon and coral.

MAKE-UP BY MIKEE RAYMUNDO

ACTRESS Chin Chin Gutierrez sports the Stripdown Look: Tan Ray Paint, Pitchblack Pro Longlash, Refined Golden Bronzing Powder on the Cheeks, and Frost Lipstick

FOR dancer Grethel Domingo, the Bare Canvas Look: soft brown matte eye shadow, Smolder Eye Khol and Tinted Lipgloss in Sunset.

The art of window cleaning

Charles Hogg explains why we should see only the good and remain blind to the bad

One day Ms Honesty decided to meet Ms Judgment. As soon as Ms Honesty arrived, Ms Judgment began to complain about her new neighbors.

"She is a terrible housekeeper," said Ms. Judgment. "You should see how dirty her children are ... and as for her house! It is almost a disgrace to be living in the same neighborhood. Just take a look at the clothes she has hung on the line, see the black streaks on the sheets and towels."

Ms Honesty walked up to the window to look. "Actually the clothes are quite clean, my dear. The streaks are on your window!"

There is a Ms Judgment and a Ms Honesty on every street.

Like Ms Judgment, how often are we deceived by our own dirty windows, and then project our own misjudgment externally, fully convinced we are seeing nothing but the truth? Misjudgment colors everything we see, so each interaction with our neighbors reinforces our attitude, until Ms Honesty arrives.

Only then do we look more closely through the windows of our eyes. As we begin the process of cleaning the dirt from the outside of our windows, we notice something interesting. There is also dirt on the inside. The dirt outside is the product of external influences, atmospheres, opinions and attitudes. The inside dirt is of past experiences, perceptions, and assumptions.

Just stop a minute and reflect on the feelings of judgement and self-righteousness that arise in us. We are aware that these feelings leave us more separate, more isolated, more frightened. Yet within all of us, we have the great voice of the critic or the judge. Everyone is on trial.

Others feel it

Whether we verbalize our judgmental thoughts or keep them for our own private consumption, others do feel their effect. Reflect again on their opposite. Remember the feelings of understanding. Remember how you wish to be treated when you make a mistake. Remember how you felt when you let go of someone's past and offered him or her a fresh start. Just imagine the healing in relationships if you had the humility to let go of judgment.

My grandmother died many years ago at age 94. During her life, she spent only one day in the hospital–at age 92, to have a cataract removed. She had a healthy, happy life and was loved by all. On one of my last visits, it occurred to me that much of her obvious contentment came from her ability to always tune in to the good in others. They responded to her with the same feelings. In a natural way it created a life of giving and taking love.

There is a terrible price we pay for the eyes of judgment and criticism. We lose precious love from others.

How do we feel when we see the specialities of others? Don't we feel good about ourselves? How do we feel when we see our own specialities? Even better. But is it easy?

Many times I have taken part in workshops where all the participants are asked to make a list of their positive qualities and also a list of weaknesses they would like to change. The list of weaknesses is easy, but when it comes to strengths, almost all find it difficult to write even a few.

Can we say we really know ourselves? Often what we write down are our talents and skills, what we do or what we have learned, rather than character traits that are unique to us.

Built-in barriers

Try an experiment. Close your eyes and gently drift beyond the awareness of your body. Now through your mind's eye look back at yourself. As an observer of the person sitting below, what do you see? What are your specialities? Think deeply about your inner motives, how you treat others, the things you value most. A lot of specialities will begin to emerge. Expand on them so the depth of your specialities are revealed.

An interesting thing can happen in the process. Perhaps a little guilt or embarrassment enters: "Am I deluding myself? Has my ego taken over?"

Somehow we have created built-in barriers that do not allow us to enjoy self-appreciation. Common sense says if we can't see the specialities in ourselves it is impost impossible to see the specialities in others. The built-in barriers emanate from a deep lack of self-worth. Breaking through this barrier is the heart of the growth process. As we set ourselves free of this inner paralysis, our own intrinsic goodness becomes naturally apparent. And we see our own weaknesses with compassion.

We can change!

When we lack respect for ourselves, it manifests externally as arrogant disapproval of others' weaknesses and mistakes. Our own flagging self-respect seems to diminish when we dwell on the weaknesses of others. It is a very strange way of feeling better about ourselves.

How many new philosophies and technologies appear on the market each year trying to encourage leaders and managers to improve their game? I feel the most power tool of any leader is positive vision towards those he or she is working with. Here, positive vision means an inner attitude of respect and trust, acknowledging the specialities of colleagues.

Seeing the specialities of those around us is a natural form of empowerment.

It is often hardest to see the specialities in those we are familiar with: family, friends, work and colleagues. Here are some exercises to improve the art of window cleaning.

VIRTUE STOCKADE

In a diary, write down all the names of the people close to you. At work or at home, when you notice a speciality or learn something from someone, make a note of it in the diary. It is like a stock of their good qualities. It can help you at a later date. When you become influenced by a negative quality, you can then refer to the diary and rectify the imbalance. You are reminded by the good in the other and not be consumed by their mistakes or temporary weakness.

ACT, DON'T REACT

If there is a person who has certain quirks that upset you, make him or her your teacher. Their company will make you aware of your own negative reactions. They teach you to act, not react.

SEE INTENTIONS

Sometimes people make mistakes, or maybe you disapprove the way they do things. If you focus on the activity, you get upset. However, if you see a sincere motive, you can maintain an attitude of acceptance that will enable you to resolve disagreements respectfully.

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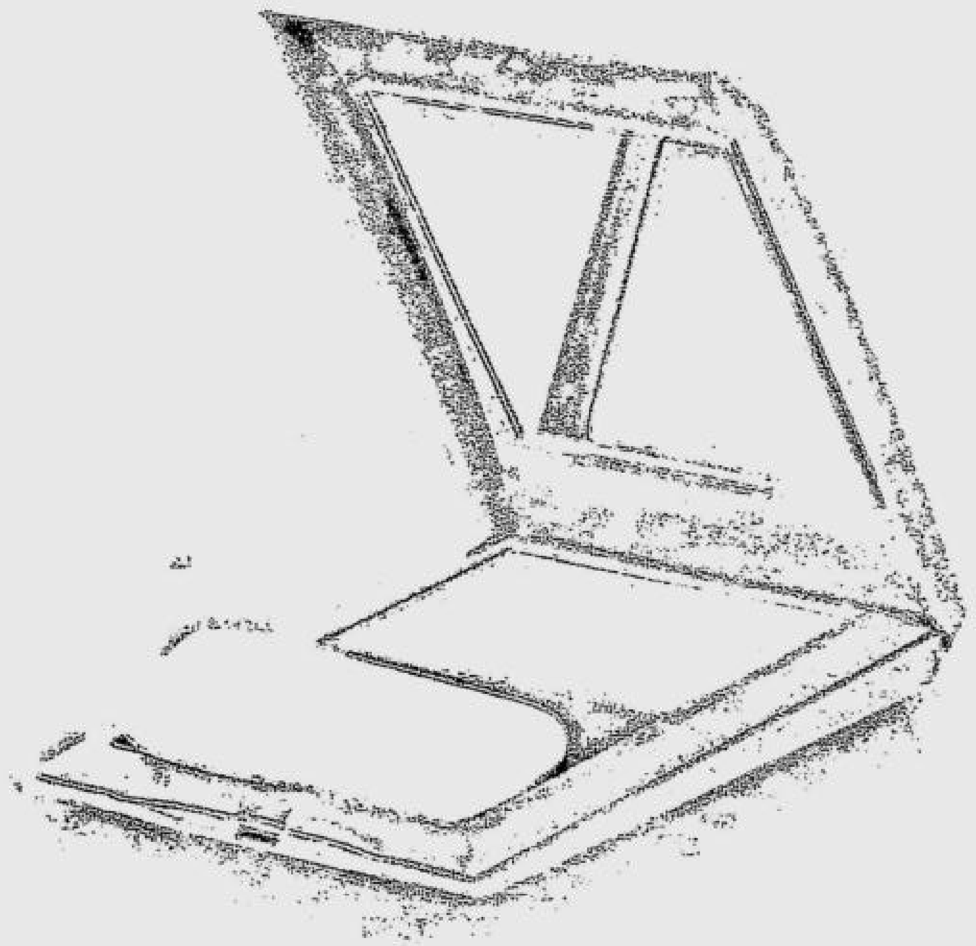

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SATURDAY Special

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Editor Nestor U. Torre

Jolie discusses marital bliss and discord

JOLIE. "I think I'll never get married again." AP

By Steve Gorman

LOS ANGELES—Saying she felt transformed by adoptive motherhood, actress Angelina Jolie discussed her history of self-mutilation, bisexuality and the aftermath of a broken marriage in a televised interview set to air on Friday.

Jolie, 28, spoke at length about marital bliss and discord with her former husband, actor Billy Bob Thornton, telling Barbara Walters of ABC News, "I thought he was amazing. And now I just feel like I don't know him." Jolie's brief but passionate marriage to Thornton collapsed last year, months after she had adopted a Cambodian-born baby boy. The couple officially divorced in May.

For the two years before their separation, the pair reigned among Hollywood's hottest couples, drawing attention for their unusual displays of devotion. They sported tattoos of each other's names, wore pendants containing each other's blood, and she even reportedly purchased his-and-hers cemetery plots.

Since their breakup, however, the Oscar-winning actress said she and Thornton do not speak.

Tattoo

"We're not friends, no. It's like we just changed. We became very different people, and I wouldn't know what to talk to him about," she said, adding she had had a "Billy Bob" tattoo lasered off her arm.

Hello and goodbye

Jolie said she also remains estranged from her father, actor Jon Voight, despite a brief rapprochement during their work together on the film "Lara Croft: Tomb Raider." "It was hello and goodbye for us." Jolie said she had not dated since splitting up with Thornton and declared: "I think I'll never get married again."

Still, Jolie said she considers herself a "very sexual person" and acknowledged a past affair with a woman, saying she was "surprised when I suddenly found myself having these feelings I always had for men, but for a woman." *Reuters*

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New talents make their bid for stardom

By Nestor U. Torre

LOCAL television's latest sports lifestyle show, "Byk 101," is hosted by new talents Girlie Anne Benitez and Mike Chan. The show starts telecasting on July 26, and will be seen every Saturday thereafter, at 3:30 p.m. on IBC-13. The show is produced by Red Bikes Production and directed by Boy Gatus.

Motorcycle enthusiast

Mike is a commercial model, and a motorcyle enthusiast who belongs to the MBK Racing Team. Girlie was a competitive runner in grade school and high school, and also competed in the long jump.

As hosts of "Byk 101," Mike and Girlie will cover motorcycle races and other events in different parts of the country. Their show's Cruise Control segment includes long-distance trips of various biking groups, while the Full Throttle portion features the regular races in the Philippine Superbike Championships.

Safety tips

Other regular segments, First Gear for beginners and Beyond the Basics for more advanced riders and enthusiasts, will give riding instructions and safety tips.

Meanwhile, new singer Dexter is going it alone in his pursuit of show biz stardom. He has just released his debut album, "Puso sa Puso," which boasts of a first-rate lineup of songs composed by the award-winning likes of Edith Gallardo and Moy Ortiz.

Born in Manila, Dexter migrated to Australia, where he got his start in show business, performing with various bands. Eventually, he joined the cast of "Miss Saigon," after which he returned to Sydney to study Contemporary Music, which including sound engineering, composing and arranging.

Luck

He's now trying his luck here—and it looks like it's holding. On July 12, he's one of the singers in "Lagi Kitang Mamahalin," the CCP concert that pays tribute to the country's National Artists.

Other engagaments: July 13 at Robinson's Place Ermita. July 19, at Target Mall, Sta. Rosa, Laguna. July 20, at SM Sucat with Lani Misalucha. July 25, in a concert for the environment in Calapan Oriental Mindoro. July 27, at Ratsky's Malate. Call Corrales and Associates at 722-9024.

Not really "new" but newly reimagined is folk-pop singer DJ Alvaro, who had a hit in "Tipo Kong Lalake" in 1995. This time around, she's releasing a new album titled "Medyo Bastos," which winkingly indicates where her newly-revived recording career is headed.

First single

Her first single is "Papa Ka Ba?," a title that reinforces our suspicion that she'll be riding on the "double-meaning" fad that currently has some music buffs under its "naughty" influence.

Finally, the Viva Foundation for the Arts is launching a new tilt, the First Mang Levi Songwriting contest, that could discover heretofore unknown composers. The competition is named after the late National Artist, Levi Celerio.

Professional and amateur songwriters have only until July 31 to submit their entries (to the Viva Foundation for the Arts, 7th floor, East Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange Center bldg., Exchange road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City).

Panel

Thirty semi-finalists will be selected by Aug. 15 by a panel made up of music industry professionals. At a second screening on Aug. 20, jurors from various fields will choose the 12 finalist songs, which will be performed in the tilt's grand finals this November.

The winner of the Grand Prix will win P250,000. Also at stake are P150,000 for second prize, and P75,000 for third prize. The 12 finalists get P10,000 each.

Levi Celerio is a worthy inspiration for young composers. He wrote the lyrics for many songs that have become classics—"Gaano Ko Ikaw Kamahal," "Ang Pipit," "Saan Ka Man Naroroon," "Dahil sa Isang Bulaklak"—etc.! So, Viva should be complimented for honoring him by way of this composing competition.

DEXTER. Trying his luck in local show biz.

BENITEZ AND CHAN. Hosts of "Byk 101," premiering on IBC-13 on July 26.

ALVARO. Her new album is "Medyo Bastos."

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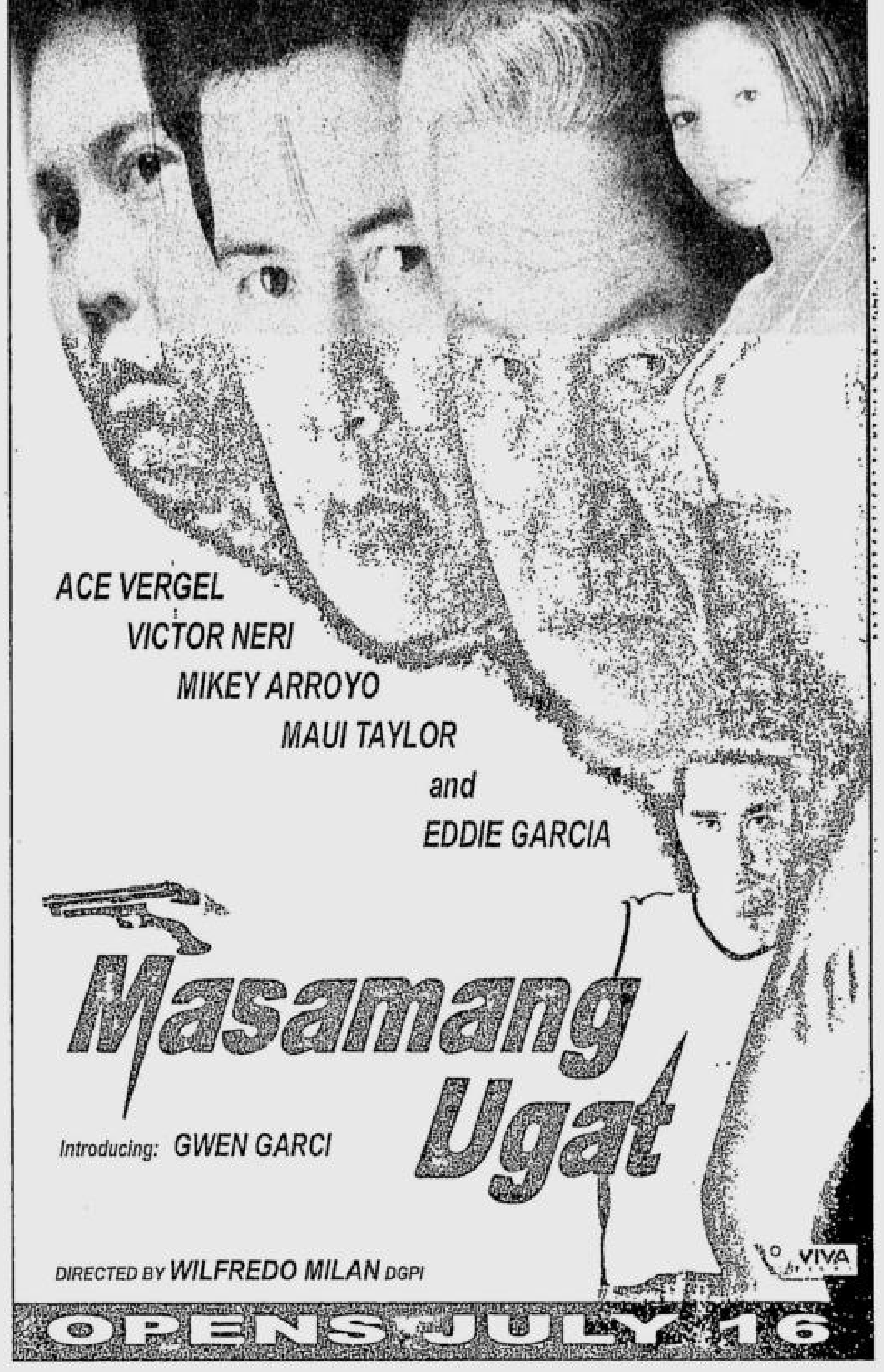

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Tosca Puno inherits Rico J's gift of song

By Andy P. Bais

TOSCA Puno is fast emerging as truly her father's daughter. She may have inherited her delicately peachy and creamy look from her lovely mom, Doris Tayag, but her exceptional singing voice is definitely from her dad, Rico J.

Inevitable

Her venturing into the exciting world of show business was inevitable. As dad Rico would put it, "*Batang* show biz *talaga yan! Isin-isilang pa lang yan ng kanyang* mommy, there were already show biz press people waiting for her in the hospital. And she was such a beautiful baby, *ang kinis-kinis niya*.

"Many thought that my hit song 'Cartada Dies' was for a particular lady; actually, I had it composed for Tosca. From all angles, 'Cartada Dies' *siya talaga*."

Tosca has grown up to be exactly what her dad had seen in her when she was still a baby. As to her singing ability, we had to listen to her sing live, if only to prove to ourselves that Rico was not just being a doting father to his first-born.

Heartfelt

Well, Rico was right. When Tosca sang "Kapalaran," we thought that her version was soulful and heartfelt. She hit the high notes with the ease of a pro. She made the song truly her own, so we forgot that it was one of her dad's signature songs.

The 22-year-old charmer confesses that singing is really her passion and adds that she got her talent not only from her dad but also from her mom. "You should listen to her sing, *pwedeng-pwede siyang* lounge singer," she beams.

Tosca was already a "certified performer" when she was still in grade school. "I sang at all sorts of parties. But, during those times, I felt *obligado lang na kumanta dahil anak ako ni* Rico Puno. It was only much later, during college, that I really got to enjoy singing. I always get a natural high when I'm performing onstage," she gushes.

The arts management graduate from La Salle St. Benilde really wants to make it on her own as a performer. That's why, some years ago, she joined a talent search at GMA-7 without her parents' permission. Unfortunately, she lost during the finals.

"I cried a lot, but the best thing about my joining the search was that I was able to prove to myself that I was really determined to make a name for myself," she relates.

Tosca's natural gift of music did not escape the keen knack of her dad's long-time manager, Norma Japitana, for spotting genuine talent. Tosca's Tita Norms, who has since become her manager, had Viva's top honchos listen to her demo tape of "Kapalaran" and the result was a recording contract with Viva Records.

First album

So far, Tosca has recorded two original Filipino songs, composed by Raul Mitra and Mon Espia. Hopefully, her first album will be completed and released this year. Excitement over the prospect of her becoming a recording artist is written all over Tosca's face. "I can't wait for the time *na may* hit song *din ako* like my dad," she exclaims.

Tosca describes her singing style as one "derived from all my influences. *Kaya ko ang mababang boses* and I can reach high notes. I can also be husky and do theater songs."

Among local singers, she adores Regine Velasquez. "I love the way she plays with her voice, it is so amazing. *Kaya niyang ibahin ang kanta, pero maganda pa rin.*"

Currently, Tosca is doing the rounds of local TV shows in preparation for her formal launch that will coincide with the release of her first album. She is also a constant guest performer in her dad's concerts, where she gets to sing solo and the regulation duet numbers.

Sexy stars

How is it singing with her dad? "*Masaya*, because I feel safe. Everytime *na nagkakamali ako, sinasalo niya ako.* Worried *lang siya dahil* most of his shows have sexy stars as guests. *Natatakot siya, baka mapagkamalan akong* bold star," she laughs.

In August she will join her dad in his shows in the United States, particularly in Reno, Atlantic City, San Diego and Los Angeles.

PUNO. Wants to make it on her own.

The multi-talented Tosca also dabbles in painting. And she is into candle-making, the current favorite hobby of her mom. They specialize in big sculpted candles that are perfect as gifts for special occasions. On the entertainment scene, however, Tosca is Rico J's gift of song.

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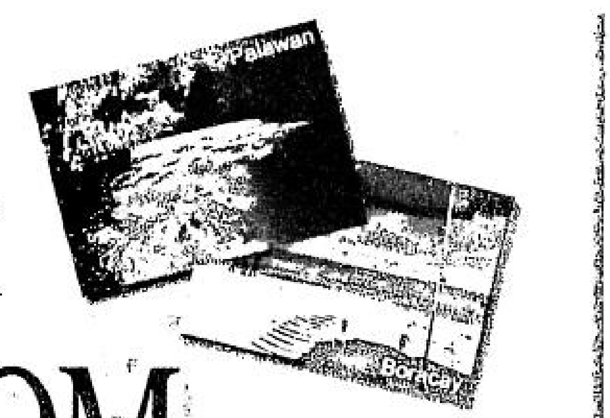
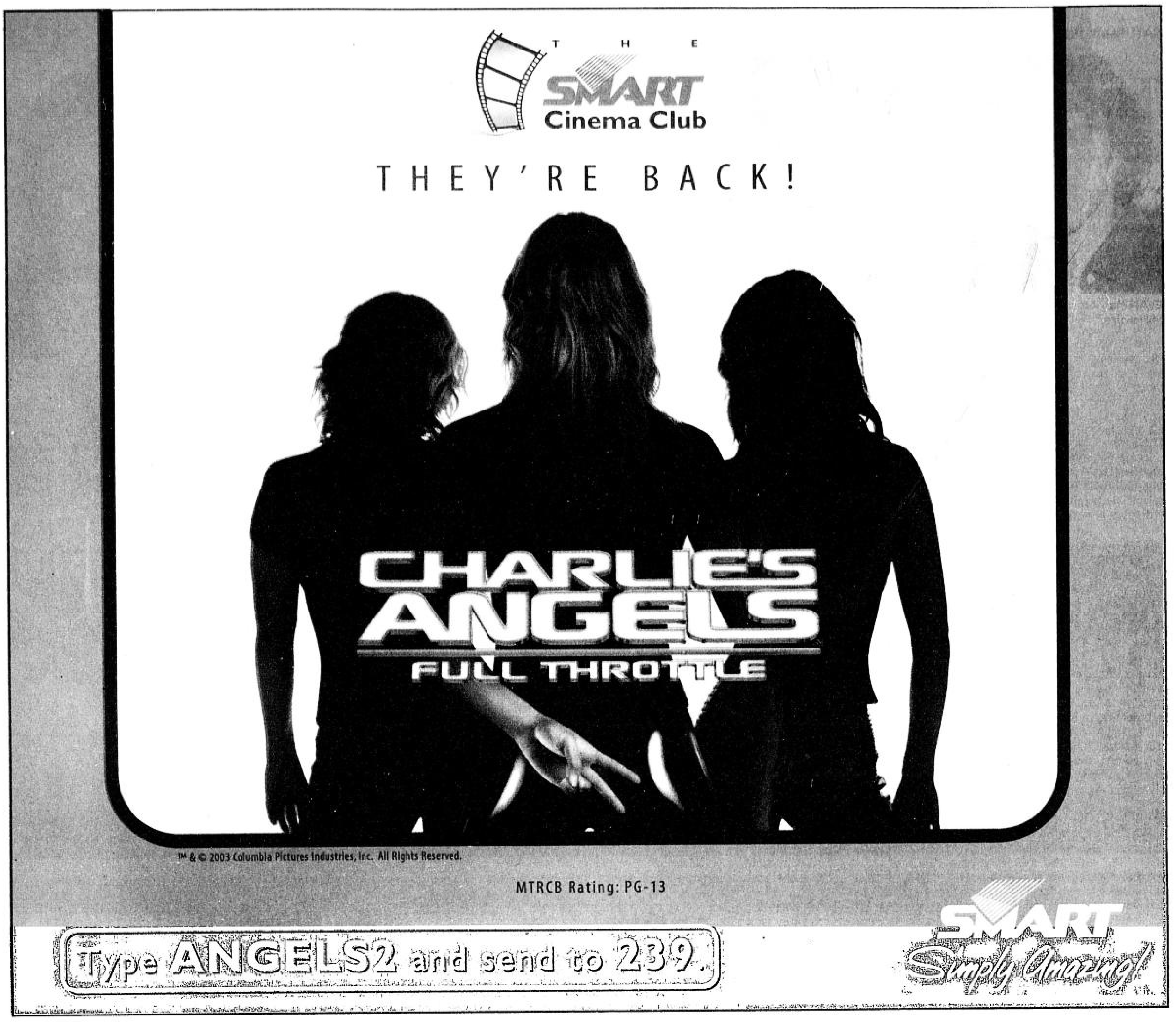




CFSI salves wounds of war

By Nestor U. Torre

JUST when you think you've got Tessie Tomas all figured out, she surprises you with a new side to her interests and involvements. Last week, the popular actress, comedienne, impersonator and TV host called us up to invite us to—no, not a TV taping or impersonation show, but to a press conference for Community and Family Services International (CFSI), a nonprofit social-development organization.

Service

It turns out that Tessie is a member of the CFSI board, and the organization's drumbeater. Talk about service above and beyond!

Tessie is in very good company at CFSI, whose other stalwarts include executive director Steven Muncy, chairperson Jaime Galvez Tan, and board members Laura Suarez Acuzar, Erlinda Cordero, Lualhati Pablo, Sheila Platt, Cornelio Banaag Jr., Lourdes Ladrido-Ignacio, and Dean Michael Mastura.

At the CFSI press conference, we learned that the organization was put up in 1981 to proactively address the psycho-social needs of uprooted people, and others in very difficult circumstances.

ZONE OF PEACE

STUDENTS of Inug-ug Elementary School rallying for a Zone of Peace.

TESSIE Tomas interviews community extension workers for a TV documentary about the social-development organization.

Peace

It seeks to address social and health problems, and to prevent people from becoming uprooted by promoting peace, respect for human rights, and the equitable distribution of resources.

CFSI first helped the psycho-social needs of Vietnamese, Cambodian and Laotian refugees at the Philippine Refugee Processing Center in Bataan. Through the years, it's worked with many other refugees and disaster victims in countries like Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea.

Currently, its efforts are focused on rebuilding lives in the Philippines, Myanmar (Burma) and Vietnam. Its Philippine involvement has been prompted by the massive dislocation and great suffering engendered by the conflict in Mindanao, which has displaced thousands of civilians.

Education

More specifically, CFSI is helping some 500 out-of-school youths in Barangay Inug-ug in Pagalungan, Maguindanao get the education they've missed out on. Seven teachers, seven tutors and six extension workers have been hired, schoolhouses put up, children immunized, and a halal school lunch program initiated.

All of this is admirable and important, but it also takes a lot of money to support, so CFSI held its press conference last week to ask for the help of business firms, foundations and the general public (that means you).

Donations

Donations in any amount will be appreciated. These can be in the form of checks made out to CFSI, or bank transfers to CFSI's current account 6731-06-9733 at BPI Family Bank, Legaspi-Amorsolo Branch, 104 Amorsolo st., Makati City.

Money donated will go a long way: P500 a month for 12 months will keep one child in school for one year. P1,500 a month for 12 months will keep one community extension worker employed for one year. P16,000 a month for 12 months will pay for the salary and benefits of one teacher for one year. And P30,000 a month for 12 months will pay for the construction of one classroom, and will equip it for use.

Perilous conditions

But CFSI is focused on much more than donations. Its workers sometimes have to cope with perilous conditions and circumstances due to the ongoing conflict, but they persevere.

In fact, the Barangay Inug-ug schooling project has been so successful that requests have been received to replicate it in other communities in warton Northern Mindanao, hence the campaign for more funds.

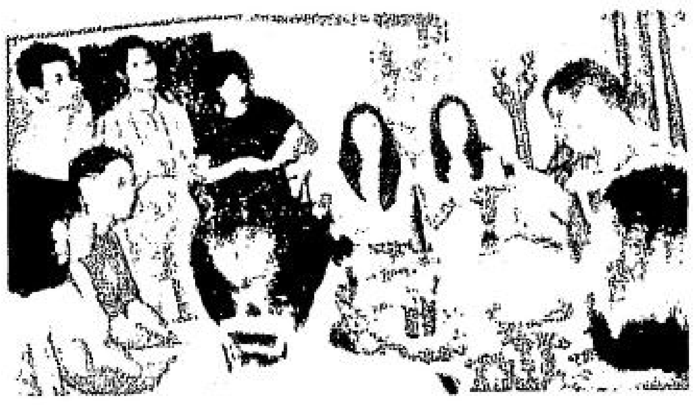
CFSI is especially admirable because of the personal commitment of its officers and workers. At the press conference, two of its "field commanders" touched the journalists present with their palpable love for their mission and the children and women they were helping, despite the dangers involved.

Committed

The organization's officers were similarly committed. In the '80s, Sylvia Platt was living in the Philippines, where her husband was the US ambassador, when CFSI first elicited her interest and involvement.

Since she is a clinical social worker specializing in consultation and training around issues of crisis and stress management due to tragedies, complex emergencies and natural disasters, she felt she would be of assistance to CFSI—and she hasn't stopped helping since.

Ms Platt is currently based in New York City, but she flew here at her own expense to give CFSI's current projects a boost. Surely, we who live here can get similarly involved! To find out how, call CFSI executive director Steven Muncy at 510-1046, fax 551-22-25, or email headquarters@cfsi.ph. The website is www.cfsi.ph.



UGU Bigyan (right) demonstrates pottery-making techniques to workshoppers.

Art as Therapy workshop set July 19

ON Saturday, July 19, the Center for Collaborative and Creative Ministry Foundation is holding another Art as Therapy workshop. It will be handled by the acclaimed pottery artist, Ugu Bigyan, a good friend and supporter of the San Juan-based CCM Center.

Potter

Ugu has been a potter since 1986, and is much admired for his creative innovations in design, firing techniques and glaze formulations.

He will guide workshop participants in handling and giving free expression to clay to relax and release tension by redirecting it to creative pottery work.

The workshop starts at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 5 p.m. It commences with prayer and relaxation techniques, and proceeds to the guided molding and fashioning of clay.

Clay artworks

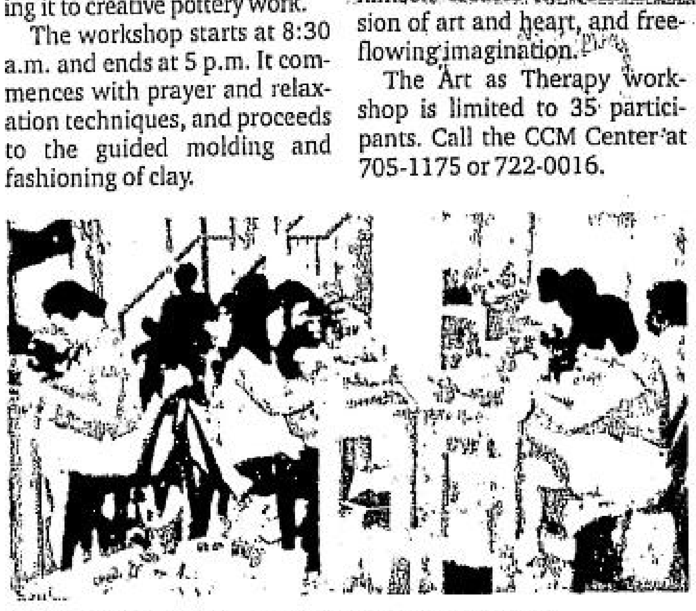
At the end of the workshop, participants' fashioned clay artworks will be brought for firing to Ugu's place in Lusacan, Quezon.

The high-end market for Ugu's prized pottery pieces includes resorts like Amanpulo, El Nido, and Punta Fuego, as well as Ayala Museum and some shops in Makati.

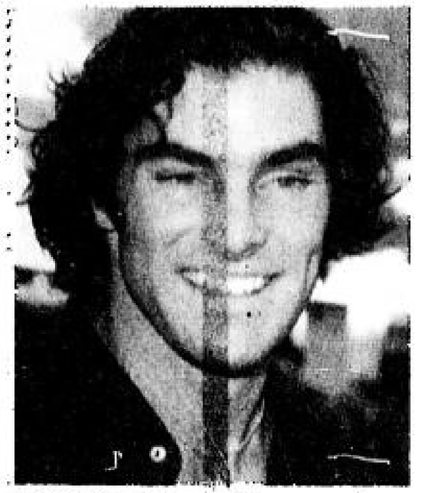
But the Art for Therapy workshop on July 19 goes beyond the creation of beautiful pottery pieces, and moves on to a more wholistic expression of art, craft and life.

Ugu teaches pottery as he himself creates it, from a fusion of art and heart, and free-flowing imagination.

The Art as Therapy workshop is limited to 35 participants. Call the CCM Center at 705-1175 or 722-0016.



WORKSHOPPERS busy with their pottery projects.



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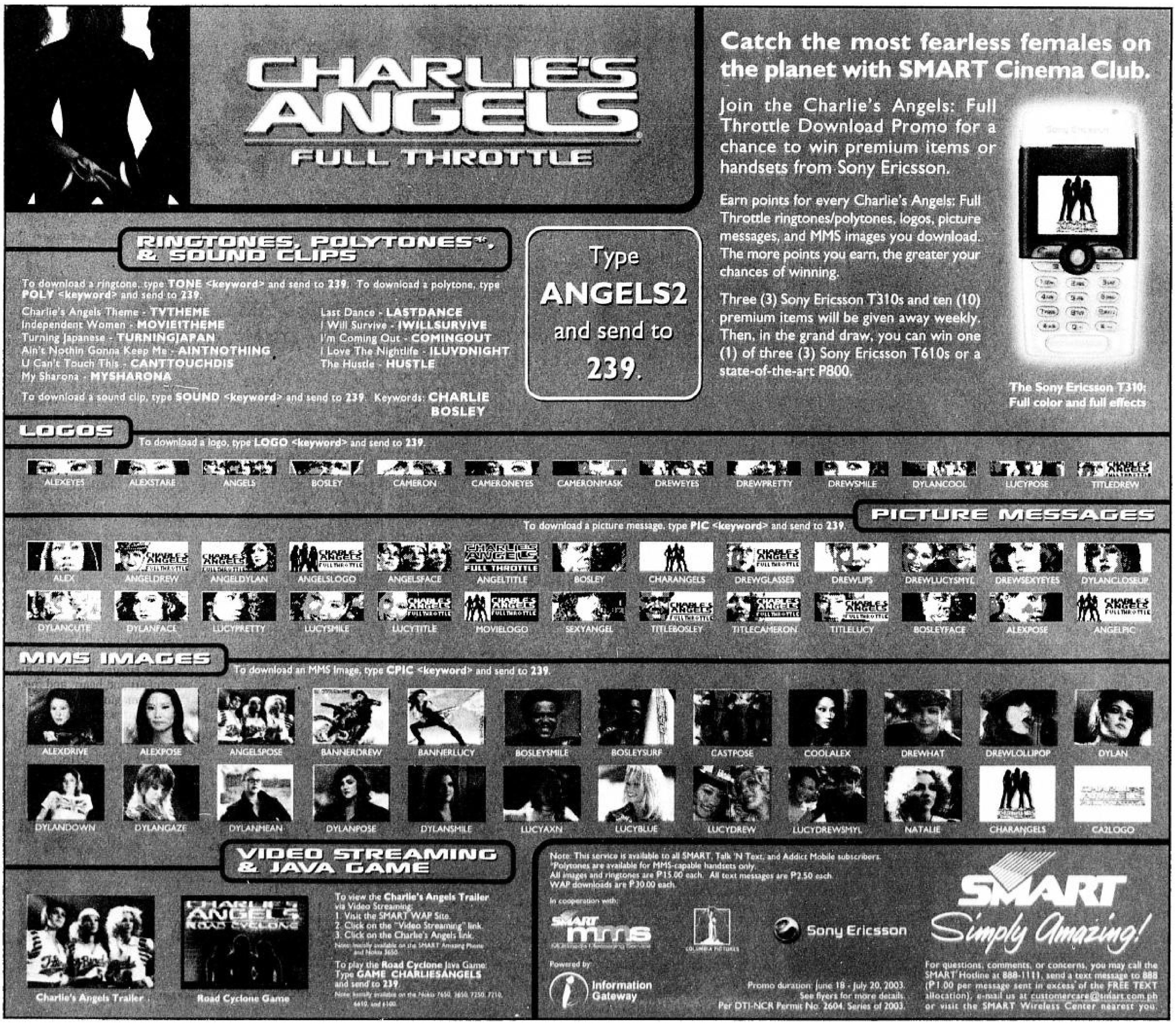

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My Sharona - MYSHARONA
Last Dance - LASTDANCE
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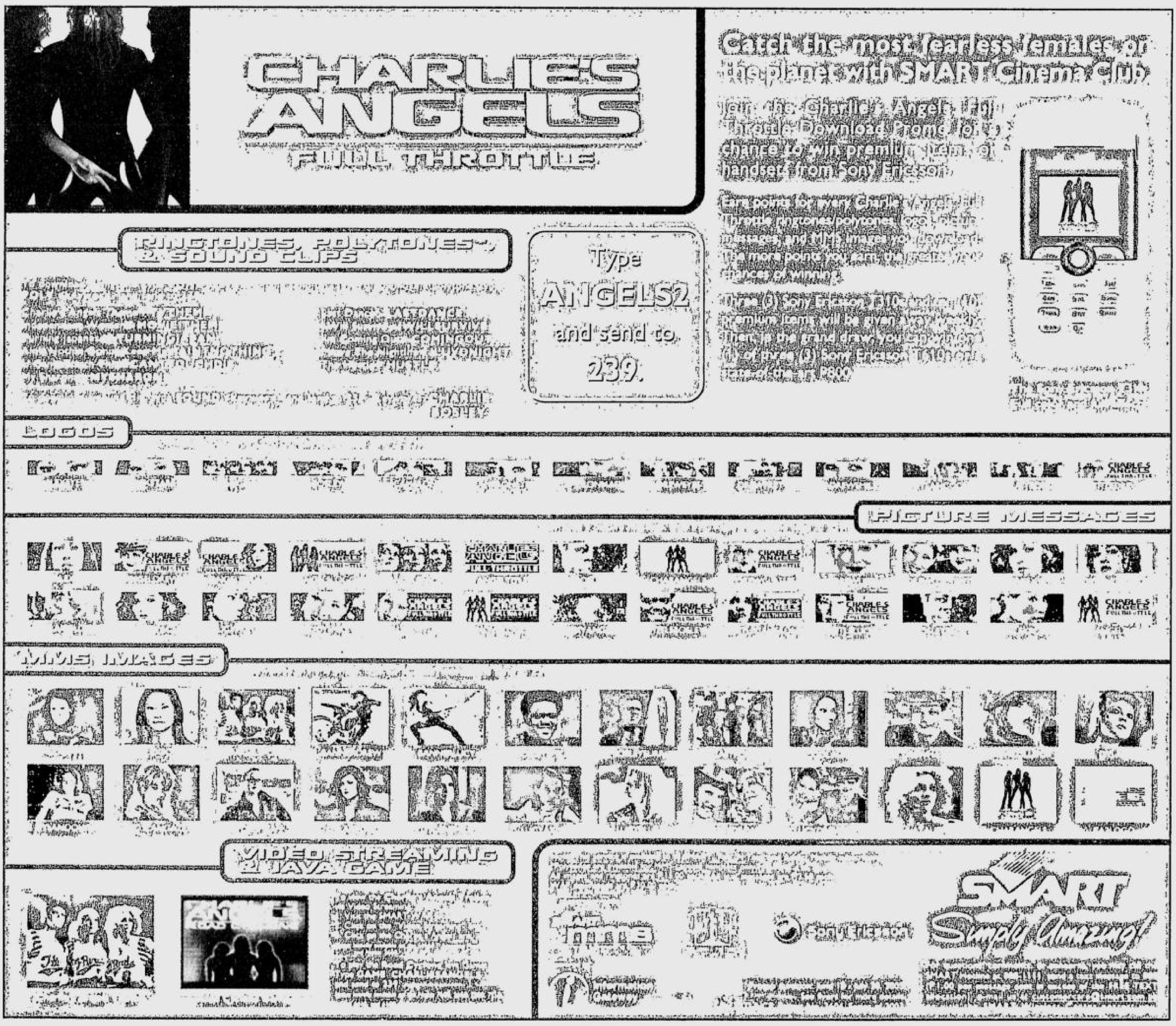
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Susan Roces honored by city of Manila

By Rica Arevalo

RECENTLY, Susan Roces was given a Special Honor by Mayor Lito Atienza on the 432nd founding anniversary of the city of Manila.

Jesusa Purification Levy Sonora in real life, Roces was discovered when she went to the Sampaguita Pictures studio to catch a glimpse of her favorite actress, Gloria Romero.

Sampaguita stars

Dr. Jose Perez gave her the screen name, Susan Roces. Most Sampaguita stars has a "Ro" in their last names, like Gloria Romero, Lolita Rodriguez, Daisy Romualdez and Ric Rodrigo.

Roces appeared in her first movie, "Mga Bituin ng Kinabukasan" (1952) when she was nine years old. Her launch to stardom was with Luis Gonzales and Dolphy in the film, "Boksingera" (1956).

Although most of her films were light and funny, like "Miss Tilapia," "Torkwata (1957), "Susanang Daldal" (1962), "Susanang Twist" (1962) and "Susan, Susay, Susie" (1962), she won two Famas best actress awards—for "Maligno" (1977) and "Gumising Ka, Maruja" (1978).

Co-administrator

She represented the Philippines in the Pan-Pacific Festival in San Francisco, USA in 1958. In 1982, she became the co-administrator of the Experimental Cinema of the Philippines (ECP) Film Fund. Critically acclaimed films like "Himala" and "Oro, Plata, Mata" were produced during her stint at ECP. This year, the Film Academy of the Philippines gave her a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Roces has a lot of acting years ahead of her, so we got excited when she agreed to be in the cast of "Mano Po II." After being in the industry for around 50 years, she is a role model for our young actresses.

She still exudes grace and calm in the frenzied world of show business. Her reputation has always been pure, clean and sincere. We hope to see her in more films, but with the right scripts and outstanding co-workers.

Welcome back, Ms Susan Roces!

ROCES. Portrait of grace and calm in the frenzied world of show business.

Reality-based TV . . .

From page D5

Female models

"America's Next Top Model," where aspiring models are eliminated each week from a bunch of wannabes; "The Apprentice" has contestants vying for the chance to become an apprentice to legendary business tycoon Donald Trump—complete with a year-long assignment and a six-figure salary.

"Average Joe" centers on a single, hot female (a beauty queen and former cheerleader). This is "Joe Millionaire" in reverse. She moves into a million-dollar mansion with the assumption that she's going to be wooed by 16 hot male studs. The twist comes when she discovers that the house is full of sometimes geeky guys.

"Boy Meets Boy" gets a gay man to go through a group of 15 men to find a soulmate. The catch is that some of the potential suitors are actually straight actors paid to play the part of a gay man.

"The Family," hosted by George Hamilton, puts family members in a mansion with no expense spared, and servants at their beck and call. One by one, they are eliminated by a secret panel before the winner gets a million dollars;

"Queer Eye for The Straight Guy" gathers five gay men to makeover a straight guy; In "I'm A Celebrity—Get Me Out of Here!," celebrities spend 15 days in a harsh Australian forest, all in the name of charity.

In "Mr Personality," a woman picks a guy without ever seeing his face. Monica Lewinsky hosts and enjoys dishing the dirt with the woman as they watch tapes of the guys making fools of themselves.

Out in the cold

In "Paradise Hotel," an odd number of men and women (the first week had six women and five men) are grouped together, then forced to pair up, leaving one out in the cold each week. The odd man/woman out at the end of a week is eliminated so he/she must try to gain the favor of one of the "attached" folks, so he or she will dump a partner for him/her. Then, a new person of the opposite sex replaces the eliminated person.

And, in "Wife Swap," two families exchange mothers for a few weeks. —Come again?!

Among the show's coupled pairs, only "Bachelorette" Trista Rehn and beau Ryan Sutter have remained together. "Joe's" Evan Marriot and Zora Andrich have since parted ways amicably, each half a million dollars richer.

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TERMINATOR: RISE OF THE MACHINES **PG13** 1:00,3:30,6:00,8:30	**THE HUNTED** **R13** 11:50,1:50,3:50, 5:50,7:50,9:50	**TERMINATOR: RISE OF THE MACHINES** **PG13** 12:30,3:00,5:30,8:00,10:30

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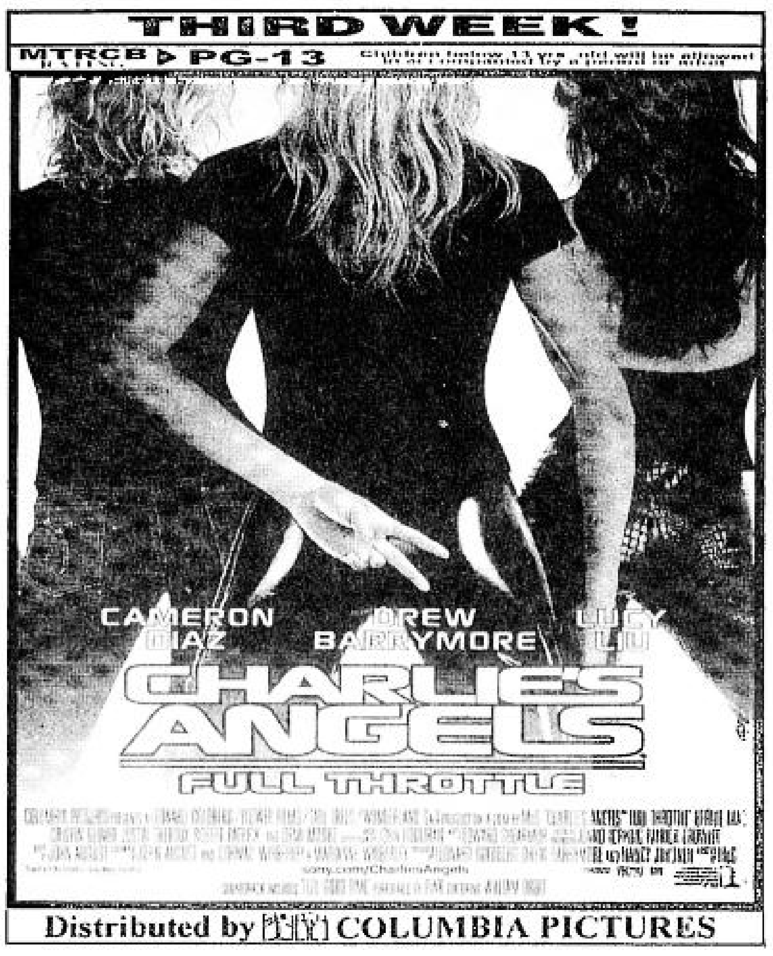

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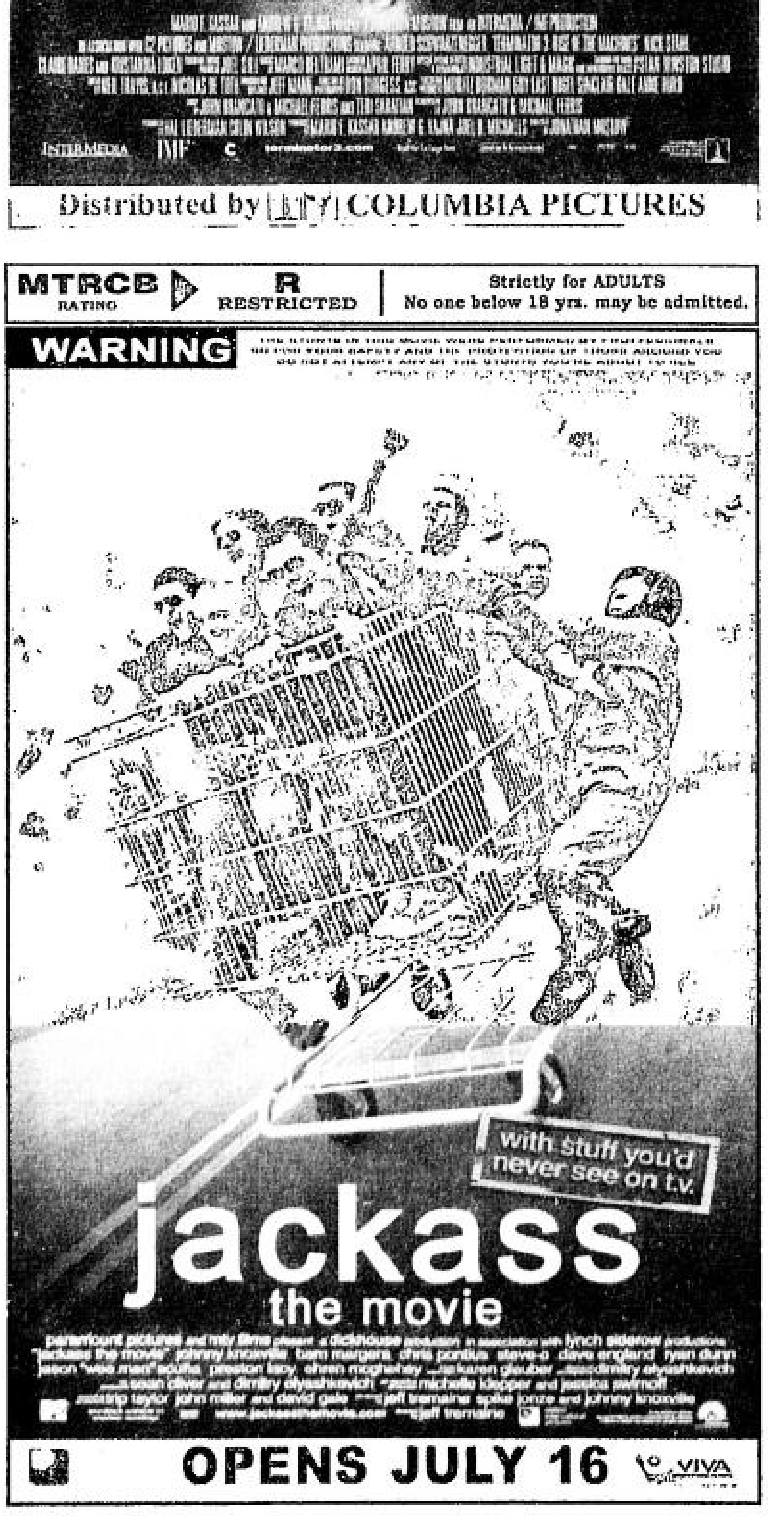

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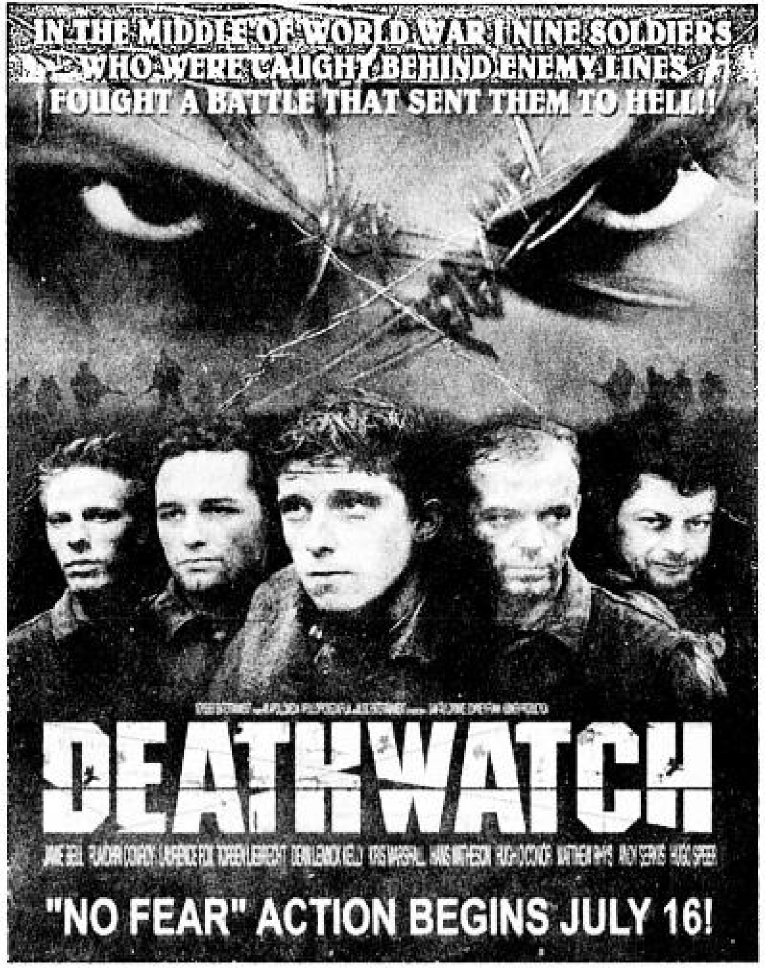
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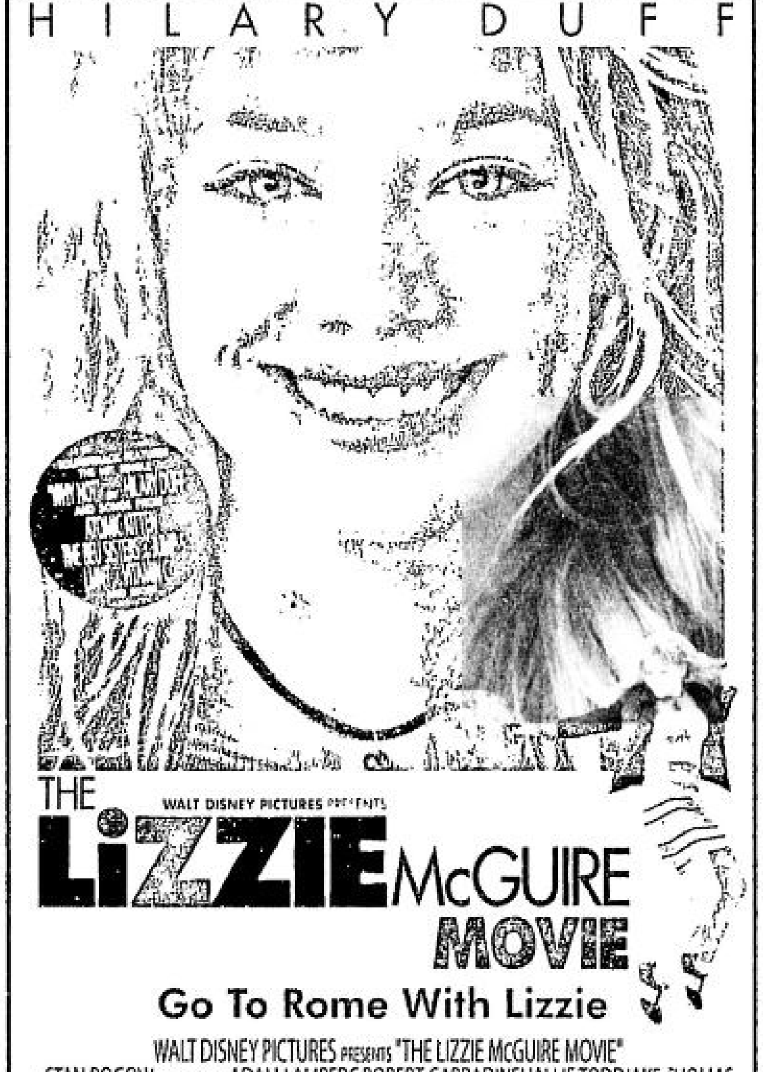

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ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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Ali 1	HULING BIRHEN
Ali 2	TANGING INA
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Ali 4	TERMINATOR 3
Ali 5	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
Ali 6	DUMB & DUMBERER
Ali 7	THE HUNTED

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JULY 12	UAAP OPENING CEREMONIES
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AUG 01	DON MOEN CONCERT
AUG 02	JUST ONCE...GREATEST HITS
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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	TERMINATOR 3
B	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
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CAINTA RIZAL	
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CINEMA-1	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
CINEMA-2	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
CINEMA-3	BIGLANG LIKO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TERMINATOR 3
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	THE HUNTED
CINEMA-6	HULK
CINEMA-7	ANG TANGING INA
CINEMA-8	MATRIX RELOADED
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	CHARLIES ANGLES 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TERMINATOR 3
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	TERMINATOR 3
CINEMA-12	TERMINATOR 3
CINEMA-14	28 DAYS LATER
CINEMA-15	DUMB & DUMBERER
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	DARKNESS FALLS
CINEMA 2	THE EYE
CINEMA 3	A MAN APART
CINEMA 4	TUMTIBOK [illegible]
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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'The Debut' vivifies Fil-Am experience on the big screen

By Nestor U. Torre

AFTER our piece on two Filipino or Fil-Am films picked up by US distributors came out, we got requests for more information about the Fil-Am production, "The Debut."

DANTE Basco (center) plays the film's protagonist, Ben Mercado.

Mother

We asked around and learned that the film took almost a decade for director Gene Cajayon and screenplay writer John Manal Castro to make. Cajayon's mother is French-Vietnamese, and his father is Filipino. He was born in Saigon and grew up in the States.

In a book on the making of the movie, Dawn Bohulano Mabalon informs us that "The Debut" began as Cajayon's student project at Loyola Marymount University. He was studying film there, and the short film was his creative thesis.

As Mabalon describes it, the film was about a young Pinoy, his identity crisis, and its eventual resolution at his sister's 18th birthday party.

Protagonist

The protagonist, Ben Mercado, is a teenager who's a talented cartoonist, but his father wants him to become a doctor. Despite the fact that he has become thoroughly Americanized, Ben is still conflicted by questions about his identity, among many other pressures.

So, his story is emblematic of the status of young Fil-Americans in general, which accounts for the production's good showing in niche markets in the States.

Film student

As a film student, Cajayon was inspired by the movies of Spike Lee and Wayne Wang, and Ang Lee's "Eat Drink Man Woman." "He had grown frustrated with negative, one-dimensional portrayals of Filipinos and Asians in the media," Mabalon writes. So, he decided to make his own, more enlightened film about the Fil-Am ethos and experience.

The filmmaker didn't have an easy time getting support and funding for his project. "Some Filipinos connected immediately with the movie's story about a white-washed Pinoy who comes to terms with his identity," Mabalon shares. "But others balked at any attempt to reflect the diversity of contemporary Filipino/American life 'authentically' on film.

Debutante ball

"In San Francisco, Gene's concept came under fierce attack by those who felt he was glorifying the middle-class, privileged culture of affluent Filipinos by placing a debutante ball at the center of his 'growing-up-in-America' story."

For his part, screenplay writer John Manal Castro was a graduate of the film program of California State University, Long Beach, and has won praise for his 1992 "mockumentary" on Filipino gangsta culture, "Diary of a Gangsta Sucka," which was screened at some film festivals and featured on PBS. *(To be concluded)*

Superior Japanese cuisine

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

THE PHILIPPINES is an interesting culinary paradise. The first to introduce a particular cuisine will very likely be a success—and it won't be long before others follow suit. Whoever is first becomes the "authentic" paradigm for people who are sampling the cuisine for the first time.

Real deal

Take Kowloon House. As a child, that was authentic Chinese cuisine to me. With travel and experience, however, you realize that Hong Kong cuisine is the real deal. So, that once "authentic" Chinese place has shifted to becoming the restaurant where I find my comfort food.

Kimpura was the first Japanese restaurant; many better ones have followed. For Spanish, it was Madrid, and for French, Au bon Vivant. If some of these old restaurants opened today, I'm sure they would still do well. To add authenticity to the cuisine, all these places have or once had foreign chefs.

Another indicator of superior cuisine would be the diners. For instance, in a Japanese restaurant, if you see many Japanese diners, you're sure the place serves good food.

A few weeks back, Raulito Manglapus invited me and my brother Bong for lunch in a Japanese restaurant along Pasong Tamo in Makati. As soon as we walked in, I immediately saw many Japanese diners. I knew, then, that we had walked into the right place!

A notch higher

We ordered Sashimi, Gindara, Sushi, Agedashi Tofu and Maguro Daikon Salad, and they all tasted a notch higher than the dishes served at many of the good restaurants in Manila.

Presentation was better, and the ingredients used in the sushi were superior—characteristics of fine Japanese cuisine. The tempura batter was more flaky, while the unagi tasted really grilled.

Izakaya Kikufuji is now in my list of authentic Japanese restaurants in Manila, with its great representation of real Japanese cuisine. Prices are affordable. Check them out!

Happy eating!

(Izakaya Kikufuji is on Pasong Tamo in Makati, right beside Makati Cinema Square. Tel. 893-7319.)

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Salihan ang side event na kayang-kaya mo!
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Bracket 1-a (Boys)	-	6 to 9 years old
Bracket 1-b (Girls)	-	6 to 9 years old
Bracket 2-a (Boys)	-	10 to 12 years old
Bracket 2-b (Girls)	-	10 to 12 years old

- Prizes for each group bracket:

1st place	-	Php 1,500 + trophy
2nd place	-	Php 1,000 + trophy
3rd place	-	Php 500 + trophy
4th place	-	Php 250 + medal
5th to 10th Place	-	Php 150 + medal

- Individual entry fee:

Metro Manila Elimination and Final Race	-	Php 40
Regional Elimination Races		Php 30

- Lahat ng Finishers ay bibigyan ng Finisher's T-shirt at Certificate of Participation

5-K FUN RUN
- Open for all ages!
- Prizes :

1st Place	-	Php 2,500 + trophy
2nd Place	-	Php 1,500 + trophy
3rd Place	-	Php 1,000 + trophy
4th Place	-	Php 500 + medal
5th to 10th Place	-	Php 250 + medal

- Individual entry fee:

Metro Manila Elimination and Final Race	Php 50
Regional Elimination Races	Php 40

- Lahat ng Finishers ay bibigyan ng Finisher's T-shirt at Certificate of Participation

BIGGEST SCHOOL DELEGATION
Para sa school na may pinakamaraming finishers within given cut-of time!

- Open sa lahat ng participating schools ng 27th National MILO Marathon
- To qualify, a school should have at least 50 finishers
- Ang student runners ay dapat mag-submit ng photocopies ng school IDs (front and back) para sa current school year, kasama ng entry forms
- All entries from one school should be submitted at the same time
- Prizes per regional elimination race:

1st Place	-	Php 10,000 worth of sports equipment
2nd Place	-	Php 7,000 worth of sports equipment
3rd Place	-	Php 5,000 worth of sports equipment

- Winners will be determined based on the biggest number of finishers within the given cut-off time
- In case of a tie, the winning school will be based on the best time recorded
- The Organizer's decision is final and non-appealable

INTERSCHOOL RUNNING TEAM COMPETITION
Patunayang may K ang school ninyo. Pasalihin ang inyong best runners at pataubin ang mga kalaban!
- Open to all participating schools ng 27th National MILO Marathon
- School team should have at least 25 runners in the race
- All entries from one school should be submitted at the same time
- Competing teams should run only in the 5-K Fun Run
- The team may be composed of elementary, high school, or college runners
- Winners will be determined through the average/aggregate time of the team's first 25 finishers
- Prizes per regional elimination race:

1st Place	-	Php 5,000.00
2nd Place	-	Php 4,000.00
3rd Place	-	Php 3,000.00

CHEERING COMPETITION
Sumayaw at kumanta para school team mo ay mas ganado.
Bigyan ng energy ang cheering!

- Contest is open to all schools with at least 50 student runners
- Cheering messages should encourage the following:
  - boost the pride of the school's running delegation
  - communicate the importance of getting into sports
  - show how MILO gives the energy athletes need for sports
- Performance should not exceed three minutes
- The criteria for judging are as follows:

Fluidity of movements, precision, and smooth transition	25%
Formation (limited to floor works*), coordination, and synchronization	25%
Style, originality, and creativity	25%
Showmanship, audience impact, costume & props	25%
	100%

- Prizes:

1st Place	-	Php 5,000
2nd Place	-	Php 4,000
3rd Place	-	Php 3,000

* Pyramid-building and other dangerous stunts will not be allowed

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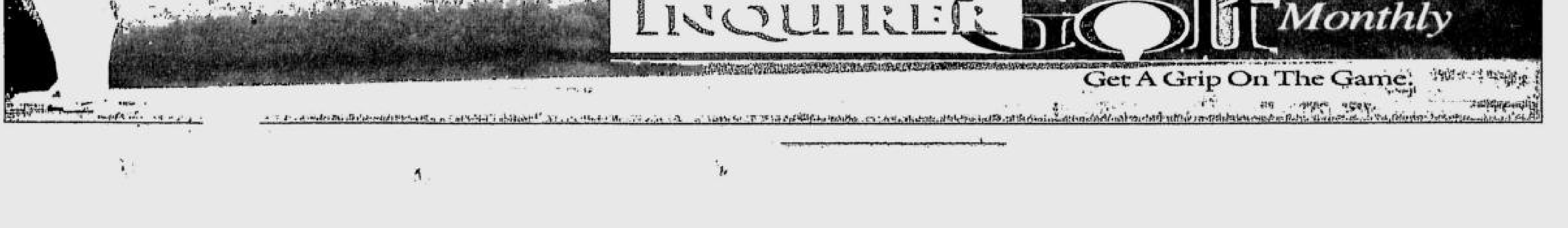

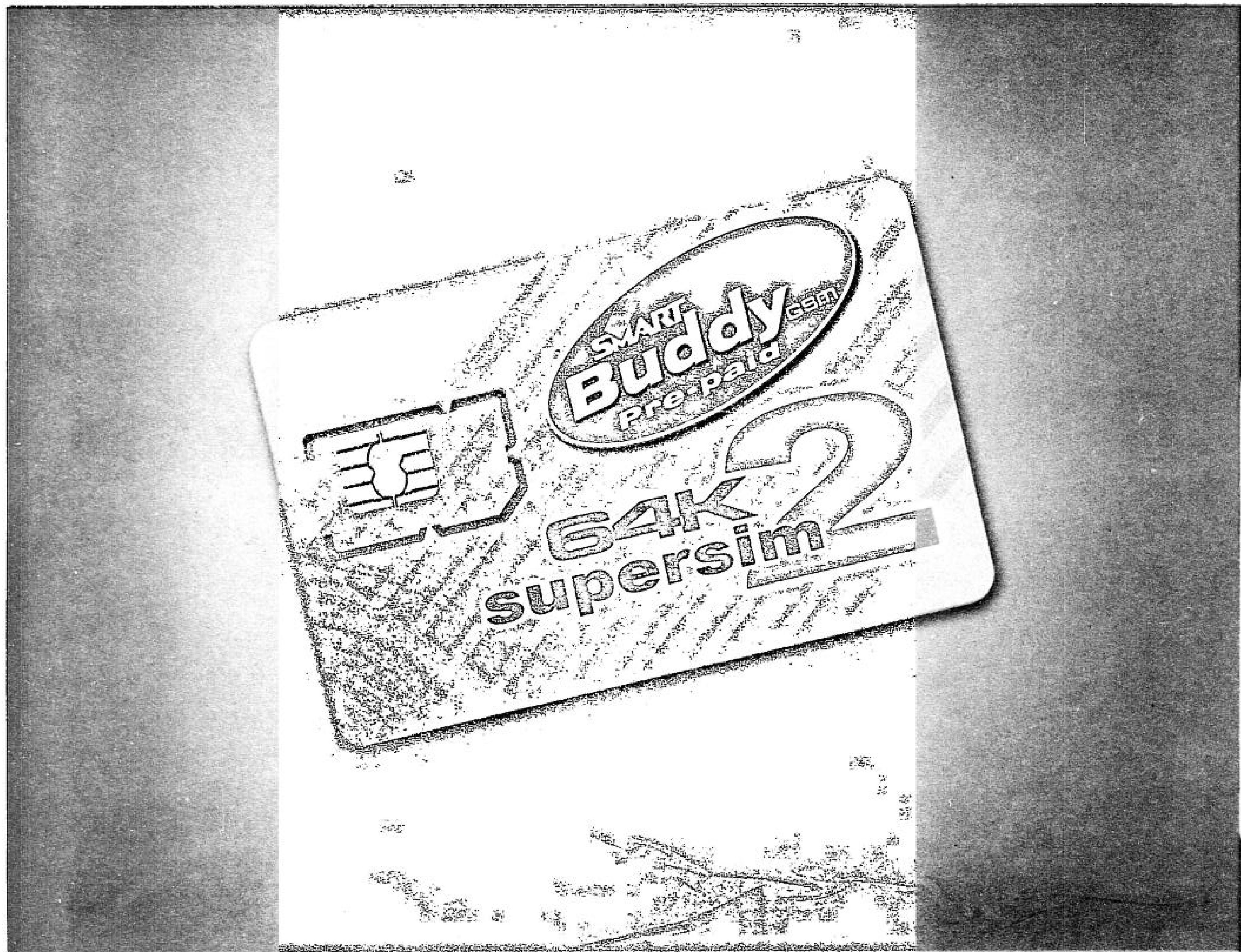

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SATURDAY Special

What's in a movie title? These days, lots of words!

By David Germain

LOS ANGELES—"Jaws." Says it all in four letters. "Ghostbusters." One word, three syllables, and we catch its drift. "Spider-Man." Enough said.

Ideal

Short, sweet titles are the ideal of movie studios and theater owners, something that conveys the story in a nutshell, fits handily on posters and is easy to remember at the ticket booth.

So why are so many titles today such a mouthful?

"Like ours?" said Angelina Jolie, star of the sequel "Lara Croft: Tomb Raider—The Cradle of Life." "I don't think people will refer to it with the full name. People will probably call it 'Tomb Raider 2.'"

Though most moviegoers likely will use such shorthand designations when they buy tickets, studios are piling on the verbiage in formal titles.

Fourth of July weekend brought such punctuation-laden names as "Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines," "Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blonde" and "Sinbad: Legend of the Seven Seas," which arrived on the heels of "Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle" and "Dumb and Dumberer: When Harry Met Lloyd."

Coming soon are "Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl" and "Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over," which follows last year's "Spy Kids 2: The Island of Lost Dreams."

Final chapter

Down the road are "Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World," "Looney Tunes: Back in Action," "Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star," "Dirty Dancing: Havana Nights" and the final chapter of J.R.R. Tolkien's fantasy epic, "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King."

The three installments of "Lord of the Rings" simply followed Tolkien's literary subtitles. Makers of other movie franchises have begun adopting secondary titles for much the same reason, to distinguish a sequel from its forerunners and give viewers a sense of where that part of the adventure is headed.

"With a subtitle you tell a little bit more of the story, what this one is about," said Arnold Schwarzenegger, star of the "Terminator" flicks, which recounts humanity's battle against a hostile computer intelligence. "'Rise of the Machines' tells you this is the one where you see it all happening, the machines trying to take control."

The previous sequel, 1991's "Terminator 2: Judgment Day," followed the same logic. The marketing team on both movies, though, also pushed the abbreviations "T2" and "T3" as variations that fit nicely in advertising and roll readily off ticket-buyers' tongues.

Subtitle

The makers of the "Charlie's Angels" sequel tried out several titles, including the abridgment "CA-2," said producer and co-star Drew Barrymore. With the movie's explosive motocross sequence and high-octane stunts, the filmmakers settled on the subtitle "Full Throttle."

"This film has a little bit more grit and action and a little bit more of a street-fighty element," Barrymore said. "So we wanted a name that represented that."

Original movies along with sequels can get subtitle treatment. The makers of "Pirates of the Caribbean" added "The Curse of the Black Pearl" to let audiences know there was more to it than just the Disney theme-park attraction on which it was based.

Producer Jerry Bruckheimer concedes viewers might find the title cumbersome.

"That's certainly an issue, but the first part of it, 'Pirates of the Caribbean,' will stick," Bruckheimer said. "They certainly will know where to find the movie and what to ask for."

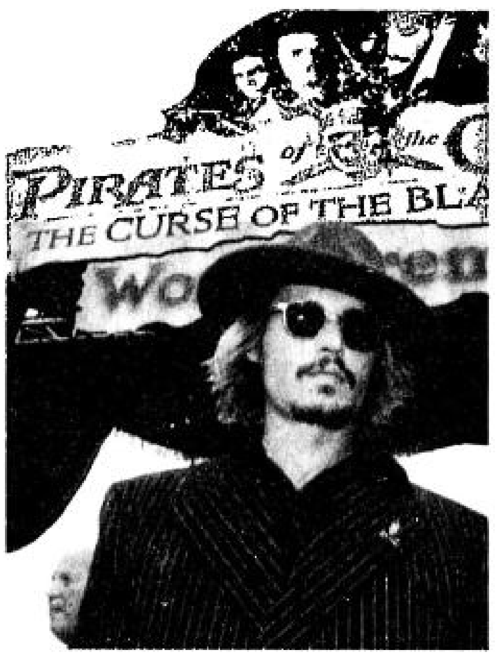
Some sequels nowadays still forgo subtitles, including the upcoming "Bad Boys II," also produced by Bruckheimer. Sequels in earlier days more often just appended a digit, making theater marquees a toteboard for such titles as "Jaws 2," "Back to the Future 3," "Superman III" or "Rocky IV."

Sequels

Subtitles have been especially useful as movie series pile up half a dozen or more sequels. Mention "Star Trek III" or "Friday the 13th Part VIII" and all but die-hard fans might pause and ask, which one was that? Throw in the subtitles ("Star Trek III: The Search for Spock," "Friday the 13th Part VIII: Jason Takes Manhattan") and more viewers recall the storyline. *AP*

Legally Blonde 2
Red White & Blonde
Join The Party!

REESE Witherspoon in the sequel to the comedy hit that made her one of Hollywood's most bankable female stars. AP



JOHNNY Depp, star of the film "Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl." AP

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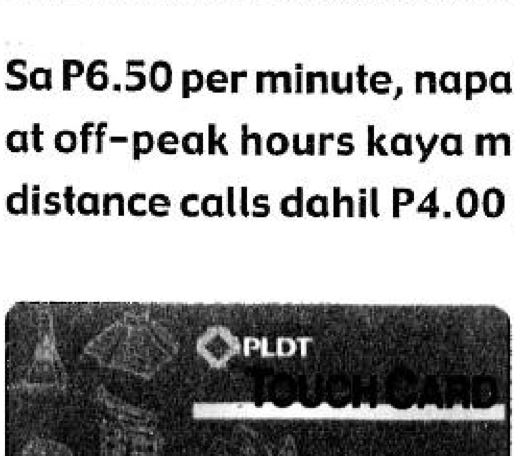

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PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1

1 TERMINATOR 3
2 CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE
3 THE HUNTED
4 TERMINATOR 3

G4 GLORIETTA 4

1 TERMINATOR 3
2 CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE
3 THX GUARANTEED SEATS TERMINATOR 3 10 3:40 6:10 8:40 11:10
4 DUMB & DUMBERER
5 28 DAYS LATER
6 TERMINATOR 3
7 THE HUNTED

GB1 GREENBELT 1

ArtFilm
1 DANCER IN THE DARK 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
2 CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE 11:35, 1:45, 3:55, 6:05, 8:15
TERMINATOR 3 11:40, 2:05, 4:30, 6:55, 9:30

GB3 GREENBELT 3

1 THX GUARANTEED SEATS TERMINATOR 3 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00
2 THX GUARANTEED SEATS TERMINATOR 3 1:00, 3:25, 5:50, 8:15, 10:40
3 GUARANTEED SEATS TERMINATOR 3 1:40, 4:05, 6:30, 8:55, 11:20
4 GUARANTEED SEATS THE HUNTED 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55; TERMINATOR 3 - 9:35, 12:00
5 GUARANTEED SEATS CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER

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3 TERMINATOR 3
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CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE

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4 GOLD (DTS ES) CHARLIE'S ANGELS
5 GOLD (DOLBY EX) TERMINATOR-3
6 GOLD (SDDS) TERMINATOR-3
7 GOLD (DOLBY EX) TERMINATOR-3
8 THE HUNTED
9 DUMB & DUMBERER
10 28 DAYS LATER

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METROPOLIS star
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2 BIGLANG LIKO
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5 TERMINATOR-3
6 TERMINATOR-3

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TERMINATOR-3

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2 THE HULK

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2
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8 TERMINATOR 3
9 28 DAYS LATER
10 DUMB & DUMBERER

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7 HULK
8 TERMINATOR 3

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4 HULK
5 TERMINATOR 3
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5 MUNTING TINIG
6 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2

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2 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
3 THE HUNTED
4 MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM

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3 THE HUNTED
4 TERMINATOR 3
5 SMALL VOICES
6 BALIKATAN

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2 CHARLIE'S ANGELS
3 KAPIT BAHAY
4 TERMINATOR 3
5 THE GURU
6 SMALL VOICES

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Tribute to Gregory Peck, gentleman actor

By Behn Cervantes

I ALWAYS admired Gregory Peck—not so much because he was a great actor (despite his Academy Award for "To Kill A Mockingbird," his range was rather limited), but becasue he was a singular star.

Impressive screen presence

He had an impressive screen presence. He may have co-starred with glamorous leading ladies, but they were never able to upstage him. After all, he was tall and had classic good looks, so he gained a faithful following for many decades.

Furthermore, he represented the best of Hollywood and gave credit and respectability to the industry he loved.

His personal life was free from any whiff of controversy, except for his divorce from his first wife. Not long after, he wedded a stunning French lady named Dominique, to whom he remained married for almost 50 years.

Personal life

His personal life never intruded upon his busy and active career as a star. The film industry looked up to him as a role model, the antithesis of many a troubled member of his acting flock. Alcohol, drugs and the fast life never were part of his life.

Instead, he was a responsible officer of various industry organizations. In fact, when he finally won the coveted Academy Award of Best Actor, after a couple of frustrated nominations, for "Duel In The Sun" and the "Carradine Case," the golden statuette was deemed a reward for his exemplary life as an actor. In 1975, he was also given a special award for Humanitarian Efforts as well as a Lifetime Achievement Award given to him by his peers.

Early on, I noted that he was rather limited in his emotional range but what he did tackle, he did well. His co-stars commended him for being a generous and giving actor. In fact, Brock Peters, who was cast as the black wrongly accused of rape in "To Kill A Mockingbird," was in awe of him.

He remembers how the big star called him prior to actual shooting to welcome him to that important film. They became lifelong friends. In fact, Peters rendered the final eulogy when a large crowd of industry members and fans bade Peck goodbye in the public ceremony after the family had held its private rites.

Professional

Interestingly, while I didn't admire Peck's acting skill as much as I did the incomparable Spencer Tracy's, I would see all his movies. I guess, he had come to represent what was good, professional and reliable in Hollywood. He was a serious actor who carefully chose his roles, often opting for relevant themes, over the purely commercial lot. He also sought out roles that offered him an artistic challenge, like "Moby Dick" and "Purple Plain."

When he starred in his last major feature film, "Old Gringo" with Jane Fonda, I searched out the movie in the German city of Munchen. Predictably, it gave me pleasure, and I went home a little wiser and better for the experience. He will forever remain in my consciousness.

After all, I had "To Kill a Mockingbird," "The Paradine Case," "Roman Holiday," "Snows of Kilimanjaro," "Spellbound," "The Yearling," "12 O'clock High," "Gentleman's Agreement," "The Man In A Grey Flannel Suit," "Guns of Navarone," "Cape Fear" and "Mackenna's Gold" to remember him by. No memories could be better than those!

PECK. Sought out roles that offered him an artistic challenge.

WASHINGTON. Oscar awardee and top box-office attraction.

Black film luminaries score big hits

By Nestor U. Torre

DUE to our leftover colonial mentality, black performers don't rate well with Filipino viewers. Still, it can't be denied that African-American film artists have been scoring big hits and chalking up major accomplishments in Hollywood, so it's high time that we get over our biases to acknowledge their contributions to global cinema.

Achievers

Seen in this light, black achievers in the world of film are led, not by an emerging superstar, but by the much-admired "guerilla" filmmaker, Spike Lee. He's passionate about making acutely realistic, provocative movies that open viewers' eyes, minds and hearts to life in all of its negativities, possibilities and contradictions.

Aside from establishing scholarships for minority students attending New York University's film school (his alma mater), he's also helped launch the movie careers of black talents like Halle Berry and Samuel L. Jackson.

Speaking of Halle Berry, she's really come into her own in the past couple of years, expertly combining big projects that enhance her star value, and small "indie" productions that stretch her thespic muscles.

The result: she's the only black lead actress ever to have won a Best Actress Oscar, and she's been able to parlay her stints in James Bond and X-Men films to a spin-off action film franchise all her own.

Work and determination

In terms of actual superstardom, however, the leading black luminary in Hollywood is Denzel Washington. Instructively, Denzel is also one of the US film capital's top box-office attractions. It's tough for a black talent to make it in the biz, so it must have taken a lot of work and determination for Denzel to get all the way to the top!

Washington got his training and start in the theater, then went the TV route before he acted in films. Luckily for him, he struck box office and Oscar gold early, winning the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor for his performance in the period war drama "Glory."

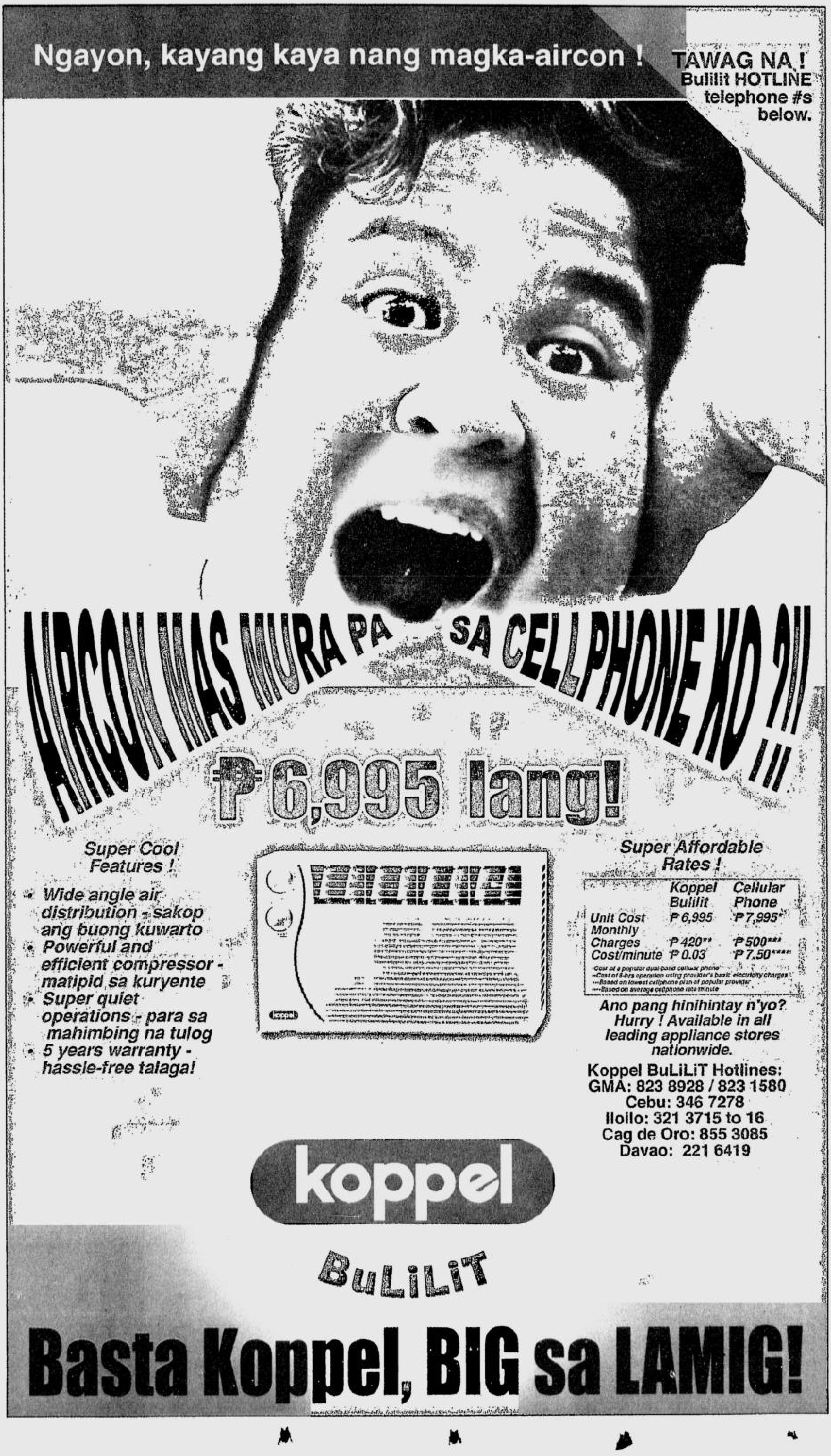
Since very few black actors win Oscars, Washington's precocious victory served noticed that he was definitely a young talent to watch.

Complex roles

It takes an enlightened man to bring complex roles to life, and Denzel is one of Hollywood's most admired thinkers and doers. With his outstanding portrayals of Malcolm X, coach Herman Boone in "Remember the Titans" and Rubin Carter in "The Hurricane," Washington has established himself as a major thespic force in Hollywood.

Delivering quality performances in his primary concern. And he's very prudent with his choice of characters to play. His roles have been so diverse and of such high quality that he's broken through the industry's racial barriers.

In the process, he's also proved that blacks have more to offer film audiences than violence and comic relief. Shouldn't we Pinoy viewers similarly wake up to that important fact and join the rest of the world in patronizing black artists' trailblazing and barrier-breaking films?



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THALIA. Facing one of the biggest challenges in her career.
AP

SATURDAY *Special*

Thalia makes English language debut

NEW YORK—Thalia, already a star among Latin music and television fans, is facing one of the biggest challenges of her career as she tries to transplant her success to American airwaves.

Mexican beauty

Yet ask the Mexican beauty if she's nervous about the "crossover" of her English-language debut, and the 31-year-old singer-actress shrugs with a smile.

"To me, a big crossover was what happened to me years ago, like bringing my music in Spanish to Europe, or Asia. To me, that's a crossover because Spanish is not a language that everybody talks," says Thalia, who first gained fame in her native country at age 9 and is now married to music mogul Tommy Mottola.

"It was double or triple the work, so I think that's a crossover," she said. "This is just expanding my music."

Expansion plan

So far, the expansion plan seems to be working. Thalia, who learned English four years ago, has tapped producers who have crafted hits for Jennifer Lopez, Christina Aguilera and others for her self-titled disc, a mixture of pop, R&B and soft rock. The first song, "I Want You," featuring rapper Fat Joe, is already a growing hit on urban and pop radio.

The collaboration, which uses a hook made popular by Fat Joe protege Big Pun on "I'm Not a Player," has drawn comparisons to J. Lo. Even the video is reminiscent of J. Lo's hit "I'm Real." But Thalia is quick to point out that she isn't trying to follow anyone else's career path.

Message

"I always focus on myself in what I want, where I want to go, who I want to reach, which message I want to put out, how I want to dress," says Thalia, wearing a casual ensemble of jeans, a black hoodie and a trucker cap. "I don't waste energy thinking, 'What's the other girl doing?'"

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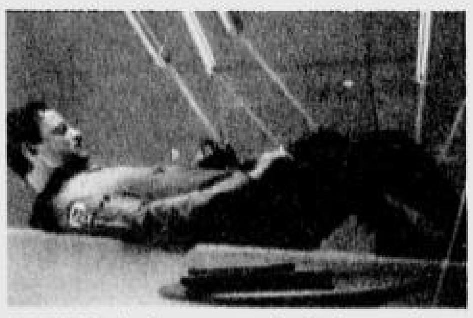

GARY Sinise is suspected of being a cyborg in "Impostor."

JOHNNY Knoxville stars in "Jackass, The Movie."

Potential blockbusters

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE LAST time we touched base with Angelina Jolie, she was plumb tuckered out after doing all those dizzying, exhausting stunts for "Lara Croft, Tomb Raider." We got the distinct impression that she wasn't eager for more of the same.

But even Jolie can't argue with success, so she's back in harness for even more difficult stunts in the Lara Croft sequel, "Cradle of Life." With new technological advances in full play, her super-heroine character has been developed further, with cutting-edge excitement pumped up in all her big-screen exploits.

Audience surveys show that Lara Croft has a strong following because of her film's "global elements—and the fact that Lara has one foot in ancient history and mythology, and the other in a very real world packed with revolutionary technology," producer Lloyd Levin shares.

In "Cradle of Life," Lara is in search of Pandora's Box, a mystical object that could lead to the end of the world if it falls into the wrong hands. Its action is set in Hong Kong, Kenya, Tanzania, Greece and Wales.

Meanwhile, "Impostor" stars multi-awarded Gary Sinise as a scientist who's accused of being a bomb-carrying cyborg. Set in the year 2079, Gary Fleder's sci-fi film shows the earth at war with an alien force.

Finally, "Jackass" the hit "crazy comedy" TV show, is now a movie starring Johnny Knoxville. Shot in various locations around the world, the full-length feature film will showcase the same group of clowns who appeared on television.

In the comedy caper, nine young men wander the world in search of love and companionship. They're so loopy that the world gets much more than it bargained for! "Jackass, The Movie" packs a big, crazy comic kick.

Favorite New Artist nominee

Ayen Munji has been nominated as MTV Pilipinas' Favorite New Artist for 2003. Her music video, "Bawat Gabi," is also nominated for Best Video, and its director, Jun Reyes, for Best Director.

Ayen is one of the performers in the concert, "Lagi Kitang Mamahalin," in honor of our National Artists, tonight at the CCP Main Theater.

Master class

The San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra has started a three-week master class with John Welsh, an Australian conductor with a commitment to orchestra building and community development.

The master class will culminate in a concert featuring the SMPO and Welsh titled "Variations" at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception (Manila Cathedral), Intramuros, at 8 p.m. on July 18.

Dance party

DJ TT of Club Induztria will lead the nonstop dance party at Moomba Bar (Mother Ignacia st. corner Roces ave.) tonight.

'The Messenger'

Milla Jovovich plays Joan of Arc in Luc Besson's "The Messenger," which will be shown on the AXN channel at 10 p.m., today. At 1 p.m. tomorrow, July 13, AXN screens two Neve Campbell starrers, "The Craft" and "Wild Things," starting at 1 p.m.

Movies on TV

On the HBO channel: July 12 at 11 p.m., "Six Feet Under" (two-episode premiere special). July 13 at 1 p.m., "Dinner with Friends." 2:45 p.m., "Evolution" July 14 at 7:45 a.m., "Joe Versus the Volcano." 2 p.m., "Rock Star." July 15 at 8 a.m., "The Masque of the Red Death." 1 p.m., "Cats and Dogs." 2:30 p.m., "The Age of Innocence."

July 16 at 6 a.m., "Little Shop of Horrors." 9 p.m., "Sleepless in Seattle." July 17 at 11:30 a.m., "Murder, She Wrote: The Last Free Man." July 18 at 9 p.m., "Shrek."

On Cinemax: July 12 at 1:30 p.m., "The Screaming Room: The 10 Scariest Films Ever Made." July 13 at 7:45 a.m., "The Three Worlds of Gulliver." 9:30 a.m., "Strictly Ballroom." 12:45 p.m., "3000 Miles to Graceland." July 14 at 11:30 a.m., "Mission Impossible 2."

July 15 at 8 a.m., "Do the Right Thing." 9:45 a.m., "This Property Is Condemned." 11:20 a.m., "Lean on Me." July 16 at 9 p.m., "Look Who's Talking." July 17 at 12 noon, "The Bonfire of the Vanities." July 18 at 7:45 a.m., "Cinema Secrets: Explosive Effects."

AYEN Munji is in the running for an MTV award.

Survivor

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

DEAR Clara,

You know, Clara, that it isn't easy to impress me. But your Ate Kaye Dacer is something else: She more than impresses—she amazes me. You really should get to know her better. I'm quite sure you'll learn a lot about living—and loving—from her. And how to make the best of the former when the latter is in tatters!

Puzzle

Yes, Clara. It's a puzzle how such a bright and smart achiever like your Ate Kaye could be such a pushover when it comes to love. But then again, aren't all women that way?

We do everything possible to make the business of loving pay huge dividends in terms of personal joy and peace, and we invest whatever we've got to ensure its success—but the man of our life can turn out to be a fool who doesn't realize a good thing when he has it, so we can end up alone and bruised . . . and pregnant.

Yet, after allowing ourselves just a short time to cry and lick our wounds, we strive to stand up from where we stumbled, reassess our life and proceed to possess our destiny.

Flighty

That's your Ate Kaye. When I first saw her at dzMM, I erroneously dismissed her as nothing more than a flighty, giggly, overeager beaver. But—I don't really know what she has or how she does it—we hit it off as soon as we opened up to each other.

Of course, it helped a lot that we got to see each other everyday at work, and we had many opportunities to talk —and I learned about the lonely and painful battles she had fought in the name of love.

Your Ate Kaye is a survivor, Clara. I admire most her talent for rising up from the ashes of her failed relationships to claim the promise of a full and meaningful life. Indeed, as she told me, "Ate Luds, I choose to make the stumbling blocks in love the building blocks in life." Quote, unquote!

And that's what she did. She transformed the pains from her emotional setbacks into a dynamic source of strength and power. And she reaped the fullness of her potential.

She started out as an interior designer, but her adventurous heart soon got bored with that. She became a broadcaster—one who is as effortless in mincing and dicing erring government officials as she is in lending a hand to give the poor a better shot at life.

(She anchors "Aksyon Ngayon" with Mayor Alfredo Lim and "Usapang de Campanilla" with Rep. Francis Escudero and Atty. Danny Concepcion on dzMM.)

Other passions

She also pursues her many other passions—she's a taekwondo black-belter, champion shooter, promising painter, gifted singer and composer and budding author. And her heart's in the right place, too. She tirelessly finds sponsors to give eyeglasses, wheelchairs, sewing machines, even fishball carts, pedicabs and whatnot to the poor—her radio listeners who find in her the sincerity and genuine desire to help them.

On top of that, Clara, your Ate Kaye has many civic involvements which include being the president of Rotary Club University District 3780 in Quezon City, director of the Philippine National Red Cross, and trustee of the Serbisyo Publiko Foundation and the Noli S. Dacer Memorial Foundation.

KAYE Dacer (center) with Rannie Raymundo (left) and Lloyd Umali.

Isn't that amazing? I don't really know if Kaye would have been able to do all that had she been a successful wife and mother whose domain would have been hearth and home. Of course, I don't mean to belittle full-time wives and mothers—for I have only the highest respect and admiration for them—but I just want to affirm Kaye's decision to make her failures the stepping stones to her success.

Future

Indeed, Kaye is on her way. She's quite young and her future is still ahead of her. But she has already achieved so much and the world still has a lot in store for her.

This was very clear during her first concert, "The Other Side of Kaye" at the Allegria Lounge of the Casino Filipino Pavillion, with special guests Nonoy Zuñiga, Lloyd Umali and Rannie Raymundo.

The show proved to be a roaring success—to the delighted surprise of Kaye herself. To think that, the previous week, the show of an established diva didn't do well at the same venue. Indeed, the Allegria crowd is quite discriminating—they think nothing of walking out and sauntering over to the casino if the first 15 minutes of a show do not captivate them.

When Mayor Lim was doing his special introduction of Kaye at the start of the show, she was praying backstage as she waited for her cue. When she went onstage, her already high spirits flew to the roof at the sight of the SRO crowd that greeted her with thunderous applause.

Extra kick

The enthusiastic response certainly inspired Kaye, in her bare-back, micro-mini outfit, to give an extra kick to her seductive and hyper-active Jennifer Lopez opening number.

Her next—a nostalgic medley of best-loved Karen Carpenter songs—brought back a lot of bittersweet memories to the minds (and eyes) of the fortysomethings who dominated the audience that night. Kaye was stunning in a gold, figure-hugging, haltered gown with a slit that was generous to a fault.

The crowd went gaga when Kaye, captivating in a powder blue tube blouse and balloon skirt, performed Sharon Cuneta's most popular hits.

The bravura performances of Lloyd and Rannie her guests were equally well-received. As for Nonoy, he effortlessly affirmed his special place in the gallery of musical greats with his very own "Kumusta Ka" and "Doon Lang," followed by some Jack Jones hits.

Duets

Kaye's duets with each of them were playful and cool. She more than held her own against the seasoned sheen of these professional singers.

The "Peace" number with children, a special composition of George Canseco for Kaye, was poignantly inspiring. And the finale brought the house down—as it also brought Kaye down, literally. As Kaye was descending the stairs to get more intimate with her audience, she slipped and sprained her ankle. Thank goodness for her presence of mind, she stood up, took off her high heels, gave the audience the sweetest smile she could muster, and proceeded where she left off—to the utter delight of the crowd.

Indeed, Kaye is something else. She's not just a survivor, she's a winner! *"Kaya nyo yun?"* she gamely challenged her audience after she fell down. I think, that challenge she hurls to all women as well. Because Kaye is the type whom misfortune cannot vanquish.

Each time she falls, she simply shrugs her shoulders, gathers herself up again, smiles and gets back to the business of claiming the victory that cannot be denied to those who have the courage to deserve it.

You, my dear Clara, *kaya mo yun?*

Focus on Judy Ann Santos

Judy Ann Santos sizzles and disarms with her humor and candor on "Inday, Heart to Heart" tomorrow, 10:30-11:30 a.m., GMA-7. We'd like to thank our sponsors: San Miguel Corp. (Coca Cola, Royal Tru Orange, Sprite, Lift and Viva Mineral Water), Samsung, Tender Bob's Steaks, Potion Planet, Home & Lifestyle, American Blues, Yamaha Clavinova, Celine and the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM JULY 12 - JULY 18

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[illegible]	6:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:30 Buttercup 9:00 Arriba, Arriba 10:30 Kontrobersyal 11:30 "F" 12:00 Sports Unlimited	7:00 Yan Ang Pinoy 8:00 The Working President 9:00 To be Announced	7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7:30 Mirror, Mirror 8:00 Wow Mali! 9:00 Viva Box Office 11:00 Go For Gold	6:00 Search for a Star 6:30 Imbestigador 7:30 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:30 Kakabakaba 9:30 Blockbuster Cinema 11:20 Flash Report 11:30 Master Showman	6:00 Isumbong Mo Kay Tulfo 7:00 7 Days 8:00 John Doe 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse *Parangal ng Bayan* 11:00 PGMA	5:00 National Basketball League 7:00 Global Family Series 7:30 Kidscetera 8:00 Amazing Twins 11:00 Iyo Ang Katarungan	6:00 Combat Mission 7:00 Game Plan 7:30 7th Heaven 8:30 Boston Public 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 11:30 Reel Deal	7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras Ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	5:30 CBS Evening News 6:00 E! News Weekend 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On
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[illegible]	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:00 Basta't Kasama Kita 7:30 Game K N B? 8:00 Darating Ang Umaga 8:30 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 9:00 Bida Si Mister, Bida Si Misis 11:00 Headlines 11:30 The Correspondents	6:00 Concert at the Park 7:00 Strangebrew 7:30 In the Raw 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Family Rosary Crusade 11:00 Auto Focus	6:00 F 6:30 Balitang-Balita 7:00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 That 70s Show 9:00 On Air 9:30 Misadventures of Maverick and Ariel 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Mad TV	6:15 Frontpage 7:00 Narito Ang Puso Ko 7:40 Habang Kapiling Ka 8:10 Ang Ibigin Ay Ikaw Pa Rin 8:50 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 9:30 Da Boy and Da Girl 11:00 Saksi 11:30 I-Witness	6:00 Crayon Shin Chan 6:30 Entertainment Tonight 7:00 Just for Laffs 8:00 Jag 9:00 Harsh Realm 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Sex & the City 11:00 Overseas Pinoy	6:00 Quantum Info 6:30 NBA Jam 9:30 Fight Time at Elorde 10:30 IBC News Tonite 11:00 Linawin Natin	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Buffy 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 E! News Live 7:00 Behind The Scenes 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 10:00 Best of Late Show 11:00 Wild On
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Entertaining foray into distant future on Discovery Channel

By Noelani Torre

SNOWSTALKERS, rattlebacks, swampuses, bumblebeetles and flish—they sound as though they come straight out of a science fiction novel, but these, according to the Discovery Channel's new series "The Future is Wild," might just be the animals of the future.

Speculative survey

With a team of obviously imaginative scientists behind it, the show aims to give us a fact-based speculative survey of the planet's wildlife five million, 100 million, and 200 million years from today.

This brew of scientific knowledge combined with the spice of state of the art animation makes for a heady, highly enjoyable two hours of educational entertainment that most anyone will find interesting.

Snorts of amused disbelief from our viewing companions greeted each new "future animal" when we watched the show's first installment (on Philippine cable TV, that is) last Saturday. Some of us find merely thinking about tomorrow a trying enough exercise, so imagine thinking about the world as it will be in the distant future—human-less, changed, and inhabited by some really out-of-this-world creatures.

Space probe

The show urges us to get a "glimpse of destiny" as it tours the planet via a space probe sent by our descendants who are "safely ensconced" elsewhere in the galaxy, the earth by that time having become impossible for human to live in.

We found this confidence in future human ingenuity to be funny as well. We just can't accept the possibility that the human race may disappear from our planet—but, then again, if we're capable of thinking up kooky but entirely possible creatures this early, imagine what we can be capable of in the future!

We begin with a look at Paris, France, once the playground of dinosaurs millions of years ago, now the "pinnacle of art and culture," and five million years in the future—with the earth locked in another ice age—a tundra. And what's this snowy four-legged creature stalking a group of even stranger-looking birds?

The white quadruped is the Snowstalker, says our aural guide. It has to hunt so it can feed its young. But its intended prey, sea lion-like creatures that were once birds, have a secret weapon against the claws and fangs of their hunter—vomit. The poor snowstalker is sprayed by some really icky (and acidic) stuff, and lopes off in smelly retreat.

Appendages

We leave Paris to take a look at what once was the American midwest, but what is now (five million years in the future) an ice age dessert. It is inhabited by the spink, rattleback, and deathgleaner. The cute spinks, who look like moles but are actually ex-quails, live underground, with their wings having evolved into appendages they use for burrowing.

Meanwhile in the Amazon, no longer a rainforest but a savannah, the Babookari are being hunted by the Carakillers. The former are what may be the earth's last primates, because by this time, says our guide, "the reign of primates will be over" (but we humans are, of course, "safely ensconced" somewhere else).

They are descendants of today's makaris, and their hunters, the carakillers, are the former caracaras who are in the process of "re-evolving" back into dinosaur-hood.

They were the scariest looking birds we've ever seen (thought they had cool head gear), and we really pitied the poor babookaris, our distant cousins, even though they were really just CGIs (computer generated images).

The show featured three places per "age," with the city of lights as the constant. So, we see Paris, the American midwest and the Amazon in five million years; Paris, Calcutta and the Australian Outback in 100 million; and the South Pole, New York City and Paris in 200 million years.

Graceful bird

Our favorite animals of the future were the Great Blue Windrunner (a graceful bird with four sets of wings), the Silverspiders (pretty, though they also counted the world's last mammal as main food source), the Silverswimmers (cute, but practically everyone's prey), the Bumblebeetle (guess where it descended from), and the smart, ex-squid squiven.

The effects were impressive, the animation seamless and exceedingly realistic, and everything was filmed against a live action background. We remained skeptical all throughout, however. After all, despite all the expert knowledge that went into the show, the truth of the matter is that we don't really know for sure what the future will be like.

Nevertheless, "The Future is Wild" is an entertaining foray into a future that we will never get to see, and it's fun to stretch our imagination along with the people involved in the show.

THE BABOOKARI is only one of the evolved creatures that could populate the earth five million years from now.

LORENZO with farmer-beneficiary of Pabahay Para sa Magsasaka project.

Mayor Sonia's legacy

(Conclusion)

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

MAYOR Sonia Lorenzo's San Isidro pilot project was so successful that the government now seeks to replicate the same program of action nationwide.

Pride

The mayor beams with pride: "We were able to accomplish all this with the help of our partner government agencies, the Departments of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, as well as the governor of Nueva Ecija. It has been turned into a manual by the Land Bank and the National Housing Authority."

Sonia Lorenzo's tireless efforts have been amply rewarded. She was named an Outstanding Mayor by Malacañang and her pet livelihood projects have also been winning national recognition:

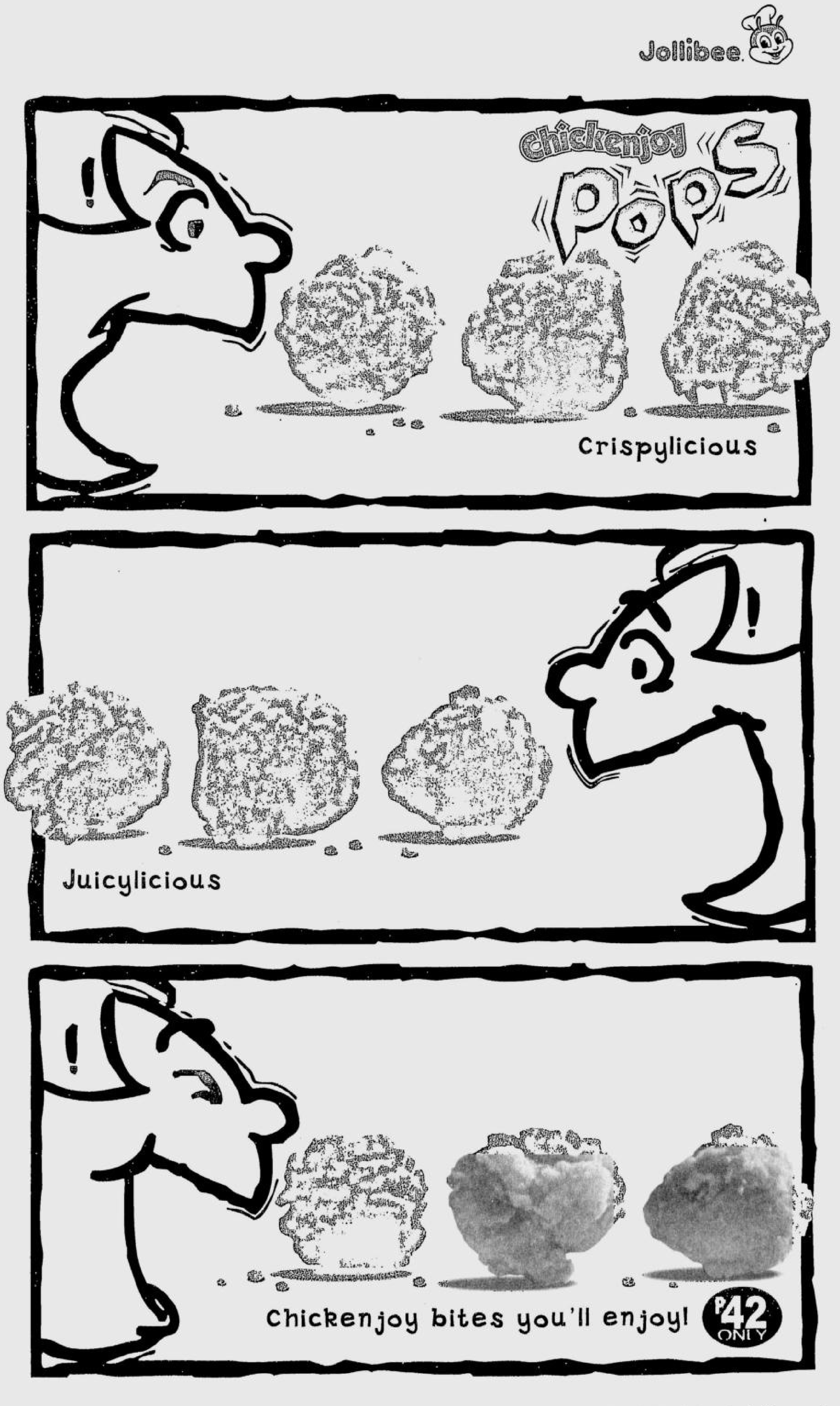
The modest Kalipi San Isidro, a women's livelihood project that engages in *salabat* (ginger tea), *polvoron* and mushroom production, clinched the Best People's Organization trophy in 2000.

Social change

Mayor Sonia believes that the LGU can be an effective vehicle for social change, and the local executive, a harbinger of hope.

"It's because of my training as a chemical engineer," she observes. "I am basically output-oriented. When I see that all the departments are churning out positive output, I feel fulfilled." Delegates from the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) recently visited San Isidro and lauded Mayor Sonia for her good work.

The mayor's vision: "My dream is for San Isidro to be the seed grower and provider not only in Luzon, but also in the entire country.



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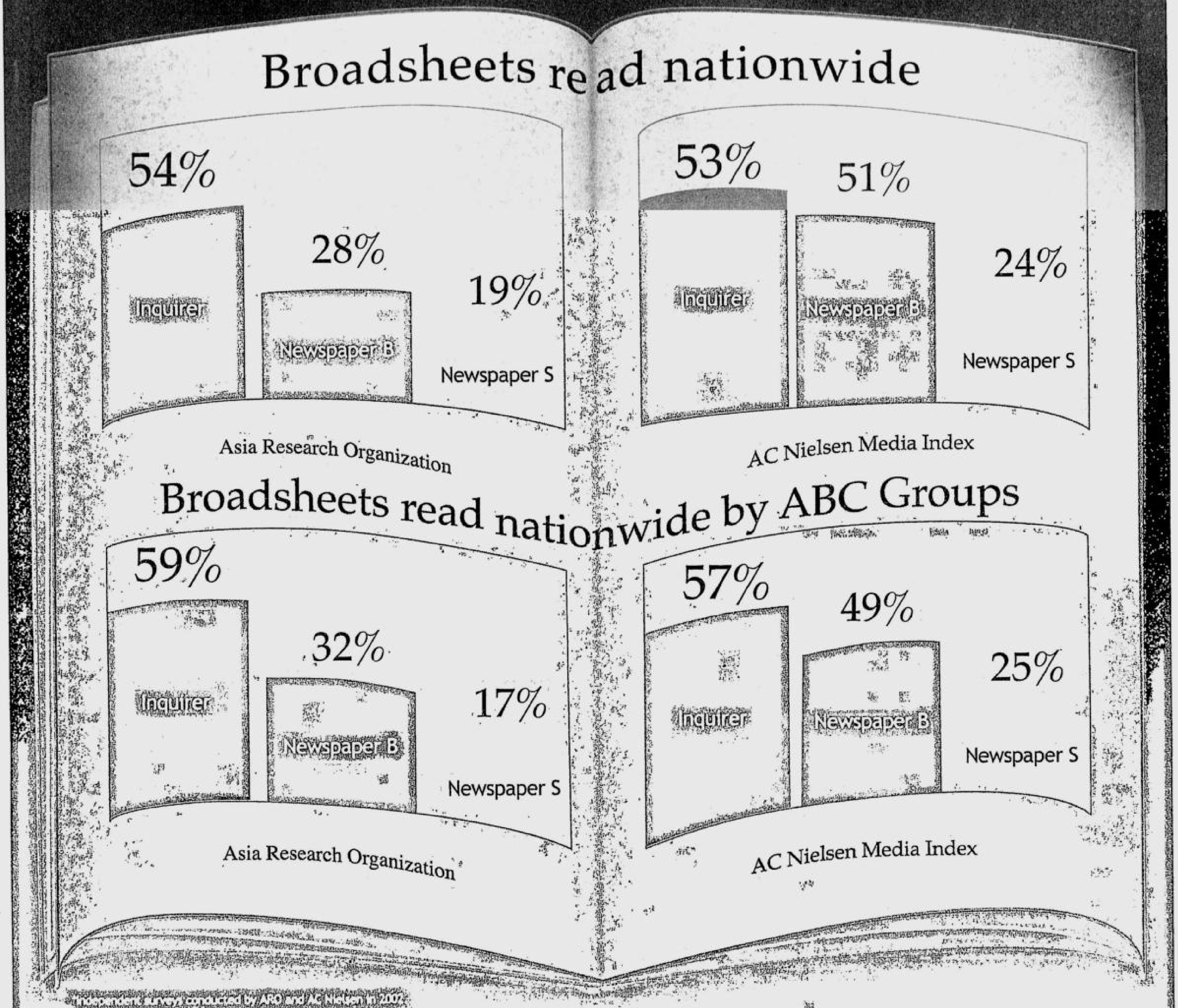
Different surveys.*
Same result.



*Independent surveys conducted by ARO and AC Nielsen in 2007.

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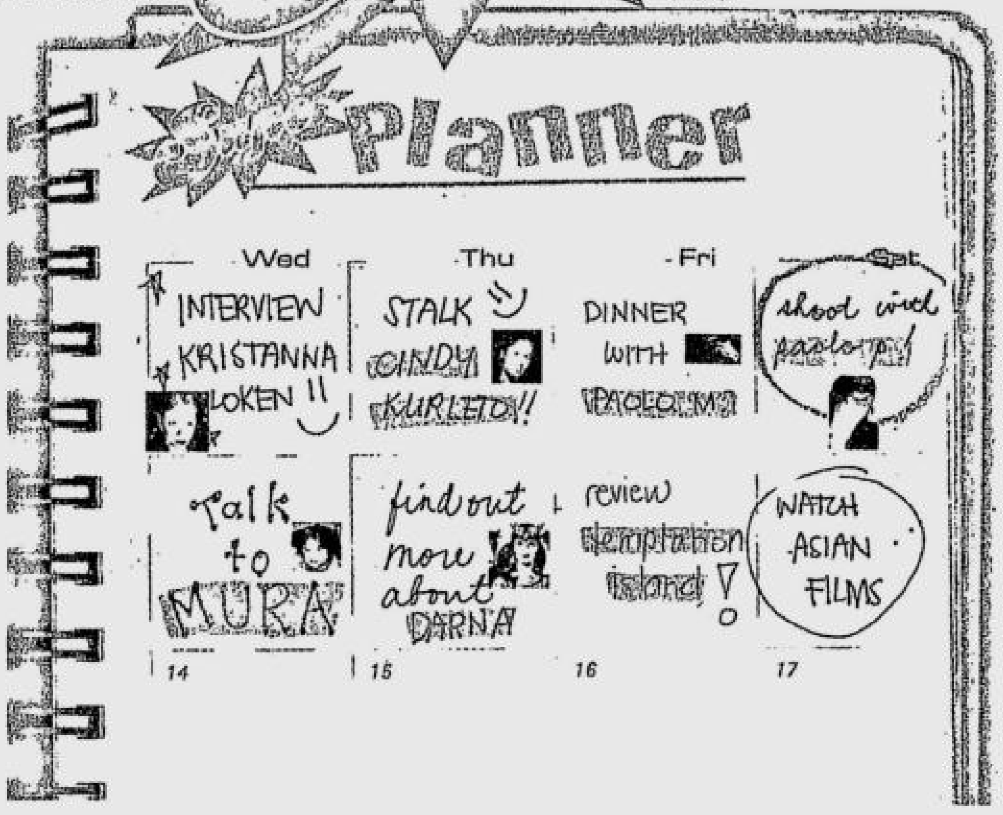
The New and the Now

Dear Super! Readers:

Because you are exceptional, we...
...interviewed T3 hottie Kristanna Loken
...stalked Cindy Kurleto
...made Paolo Paraiso strip and take a dip
...chased Mura, Manila's midget of the moment
...took Paolo Montalban out to dinner
...made Mylene Dizon wave her styling wand and Ericka Fife take pictures
...spied on the ballet production of Darna
...previewed future film greats from all over Asia
...are demanding a repeat of "Temptation Island...Live!"
We don't want the fun news to leave you behind. Ever.



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How to join:
1 Visit the MySmartArt website at www.mysmartart.ph
2 Create your work of art.
3 Send it to your family and friends. Cost per download is ₱15.00
4 Post completed artwork and register at the site.

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Contest duration is from June 14, 2003 to July 14, 2003. All entries must be submitted by July 14, 2003. 10 Finalists shall be chosen on July 15, 2003. Voting period for the best MySmartArt award is from July 16 - 31, 2003. Contest is open to all SMART Gold, SMART Buddy, Talk N' Text, and Addict Mobile subscribers. PRIZES: All finalists will each receive a SMART Amazing Phone. The Best MySmartArt award wins ₱50,000 cash.

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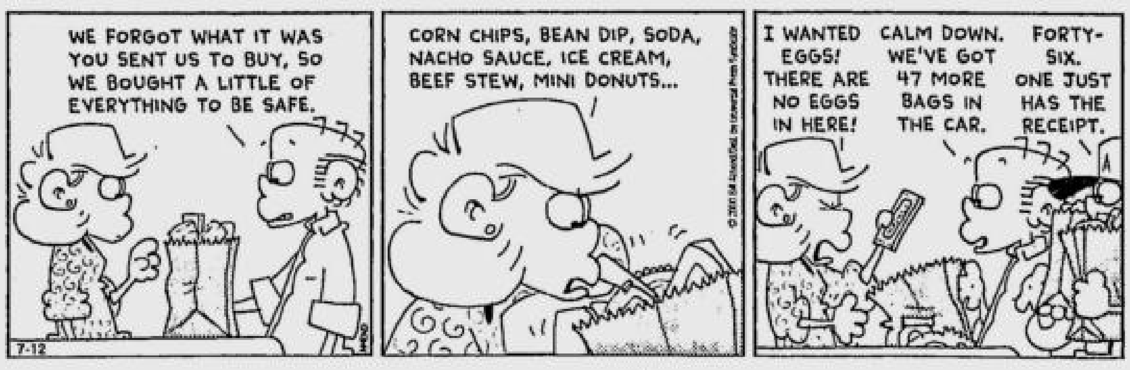
BEST COPY AVAILABLE

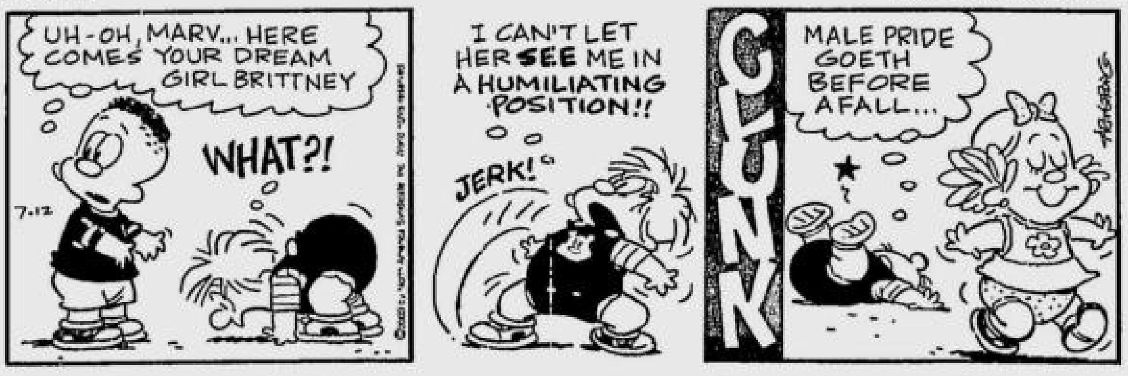
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


WE FORGOT WHAT IT WAS YOU SENT US TO BUY, SO WE BOUGHT A LITTLE OF EVERYTHING TO BE SAFE.
CORN CHIPS, BEAN DIP, SODA, NACHO SAUCE, ICE CREAM, BEEF STEW, MINI DONUTS...
I WANTED EGGS! THERE ARE NO EGGS IN HERE!
CALM DOWN. WE'VE GOT 47 MORE BAGS IN THE CAR.
FORTY-SIX. ONE JUST HAS THE RECEIPT.
7-12

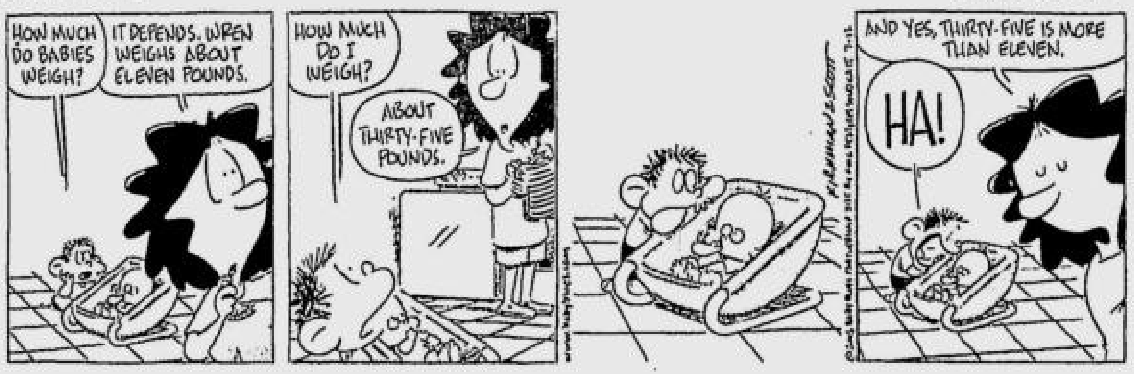
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


UH-OH, MARV... HERE COMES YOUR DREAM GIRL BRITTNEY
WHAT?!
7-12
I CAN'T LET HER SEE ME IN A HUMILIATING POSITION!!
JERK!
GUNK
MALE PRIDE GOETH BEFORE A FALL...

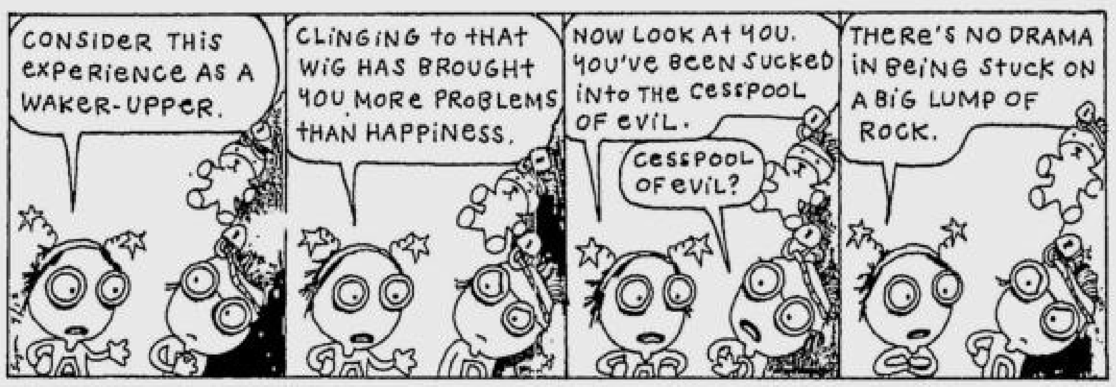
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HOW MUCH DO BABIES WEIGH?
IT DEPENDS. WREN WEIGHS ABOUT ELEVEN POUNDS.
HOW MUCH DO I WEIGH?
ABOUT THIRTY-FIVE POUNDS.
AND YES, THIRTY-FIVE IS MORE THAN ELEVEN.
HA!

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


CONSIDER THIS EXPERIENCE AS A WAKER-UPPER.
CLINGING TO THAT WIG HAS BROUGHT YOU MORE PROBLEMS THAN HAPPINESS.
NOW LOOK AT YOU. YOU'VE BEEN SUCKED INTO THE CESSPOOL OF EVIL.
CESSPOOL OF EVIL?
THERE'S NO DRAMA IN BEING STUCK ON A BIG LUMP OF ROCK.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY You are a skilled communicator and are extremely persuasive. You have an excellent sense of timing. You observe people, and are not afraid to act or express your views. You know how to use humor to get cooperation from others. A lovely social year lies ahead for you; marriage and partnerships are highlighted.
Birthdate of: Julius Caesar Roman ruler; Bill Cosby, comedian/actor; Milton Berle, comedian.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Be extra-patient with bosses, parents and authority figures today. Increased nervous tension because of tomorrow's Full Moon is likely right now.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Avoid arguments with others about political or religious matters today. People identify too strongly with their beliefs right now. The fact is, there are many paths to the truth.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is not a good day to borrow or lend money and possessions. Curb impatient feelings about these matters. Just let things unfold naturally in their own time.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You need extra patience when dealing with someone close to you today. Tomorrow's Full Moon opposes your sign, and this makes you feel edgy and nervous today. Try to relax as best you can.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Some days, our doubts and fears are stronger than others. (Everybody has them.) Pay little attention to these feelings today, because they will be gone in two days.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Do not criticize a friend today, because you will lose more than you gain. In fact, Confucius said, "He who flings dirt only loses ground." You know this is true.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Today's buildup before tomorrow's Full Moon affects your relationships with parents and authority figures. If you are aware of this, you can be more patient and understanding.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You identify very strongly with your beliefs today. But how do you know that you're right? Make your words sweet in case you have to eat them later.

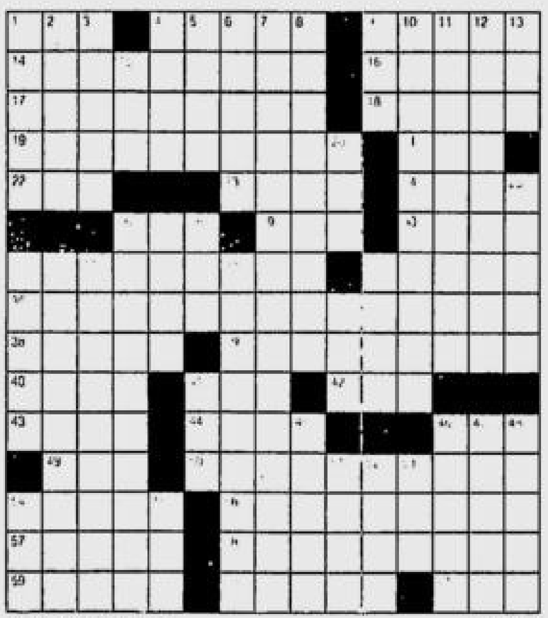
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a poor day to decide how to divide something up between yourself and others. Wait two or three days so that everybody feels more objective about the matter.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Naturally, you feel tense today. Tomorrow is a Full Moon in your sign -- the only time all year. Take it easy and pamper yourself today. You deserve it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Don't be too pushy at work today. You will have many more opportunities in the future to achieve what you want to do. Be tolerant of others' suggestions.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Be patient with children and young minds today. The restless feeling that you have before tomorrow's Full Moon is shared by them as well. Everybody needs to be more patient and understanding today.

DAILY CROSSWORD

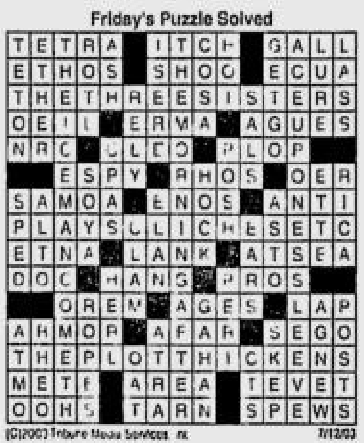


By Josiah Breward
Scranton, PA
7/12/03

ACROSS
1 Handwritten wds.
4 John Keats poem
9 Swiftly
14 Caffeine, e.g.
16 Barbary ape
17 Weekend cowboy's destination
18 Puerile
19 Ready for anything
21 Bowling equipment mfr.
22 RR stop
23 Part of A.D.
24 Run in the heat?
26 __-la-la
29 Jazzy instrument
30 Siberian river
31 One stranded
35 Nine: pref.
36 Algebra topic
38 The prese
39 Cud chewers
40 "The Good Earth" heroine
41 Opponent
42 Fled
43 __ contendere
44 Grass bristles
46 Lowly NCO
49 Large belly
50 Device with a spit
54 Good-looking in London
56 Distinctive facial contour
57 Basketry willow
58 Confronted
59 Has the lead
60 Barcelata's "Maria __"
61 Longest period in time

DOWN
1 Basis for Windows, originally
2 Publicity ploy
3 Chief city of ancient Phoenicia
4 Entice
5 Lamenter's lament
6 Marine ray
7 Irrelevant
8 Literary club
9 Friend on the Left Bank
10 Torrijos or Noriega
11 Father of Electra
12 Blending into one
13 Hot time in Paris
15 Adult males
20 Red or White team
25 Powdery volcanic rock
26 Reciprocal relationship
27 Singer Anita
28 90 degrees from vert.
31 Illinois city near St. Louis
32 Life scientist
33 Cordoba's region
34 Stout detective
35 Earlier lab burner
37 Televise
41 Remotely situated
45 Inasmuch as
46 __ suzette
47 Kind of bean
48 Give the game away
51 Spotted
52 Actress Thompson
53 Grounded Aussie
54 Spanish two
55 Time meas.

Friday's Puzzle Solved


TETRA ITCH GALL
ETHOS SHOO ECUA
THETHREESISTERS
OEIL ERMA AGUES
NRC ULEO PLOP
ESPY RHOS OER
SAMOA ENOS ANTI
PLAYSCLICHESETC
ETNA LANK ATSEA
DOC HANG PROS
OREM AGES LAP
ARMOR AFAR SEGO
THEPLOTTHICKENS
METE AREA TEVET
OOHS TARN SPEWS

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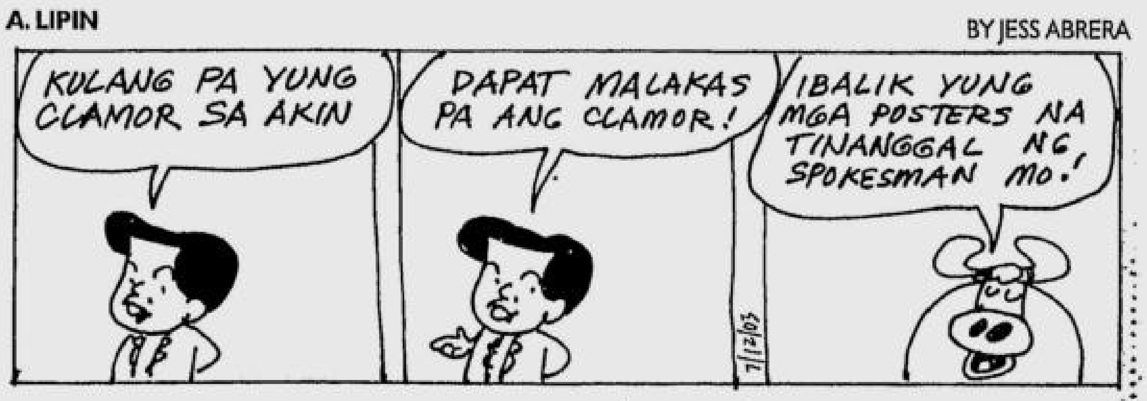
7/12/03

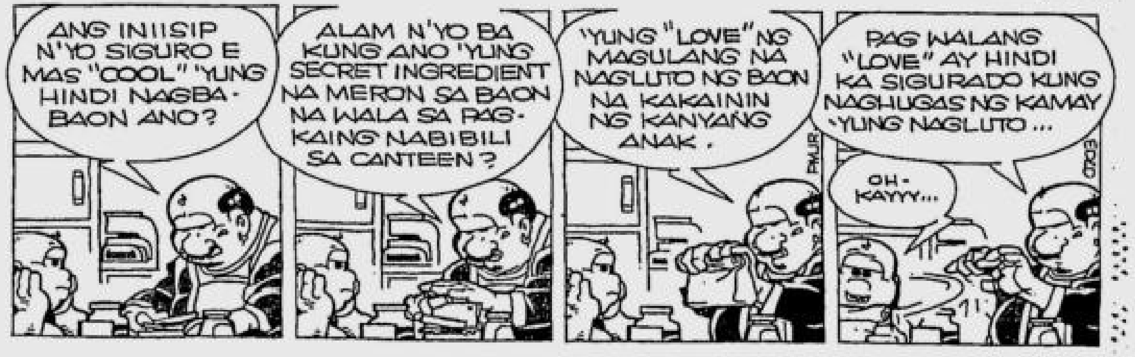
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


KULANG PA YUNG CLAMOR SA AKIN
DAPAT MALAKAS PA ANG CLAMOR!
IBALIK YUNG MGA POSTERS NA TINANGGAL NG SPOKESMAN MO!
7/12/03

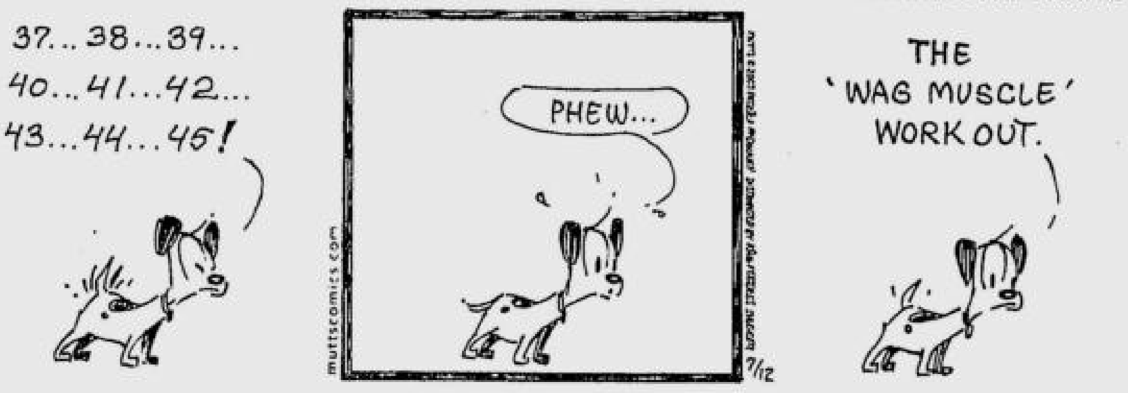
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANG INIISIP N'YO SIGURO E MAS "COOL" 'YUNG HINDI NAGBA-BAON ANO?
ALAM N'YO BA KUNG ANO 'YUNG SECRET INGREDIENT NA MERON SA BAON NA WALA SA PAG-KAING NABIBILI SA CANTEEN?
'YUNG "LOVE" NG MAGULANG NA NAGLUTO NG BAON NA KAKAININ NG KANYANG ANAK.
PAG WALANG "LOVE" AY HINDI KA SIGURADO KUNG NAGHUGAS NG KAMAY 'YUNG NAGLUTO...
OH-KAYYY...

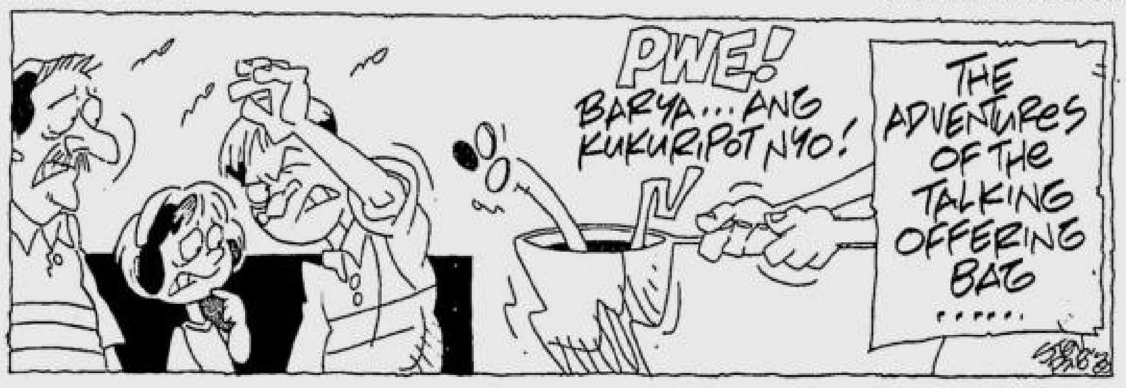
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


37... 38... 39... 40... 41... 42... 43... 44... 45!
PHEW...
THE 'WAG MUSCLE' WORK OUT.
muttscomics.com
7/12

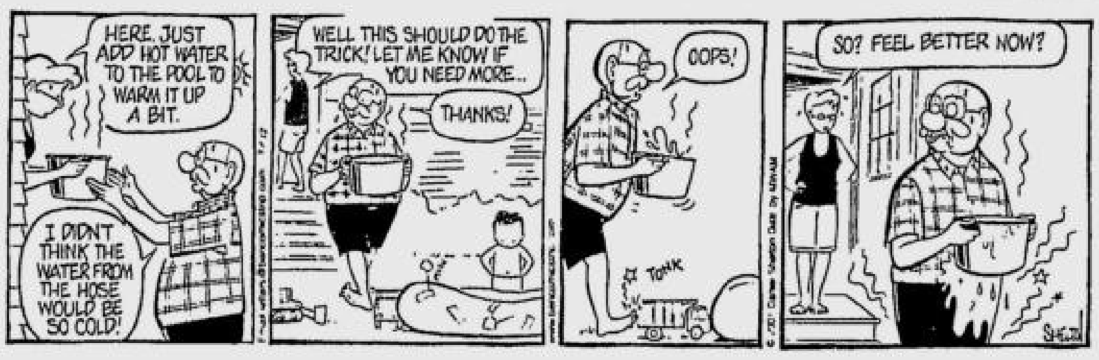
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


PWE!
BARYA... ANG KUKURIPOT N'YO!
THE ADVENTURES OF THE TALKING OFFERING BAG

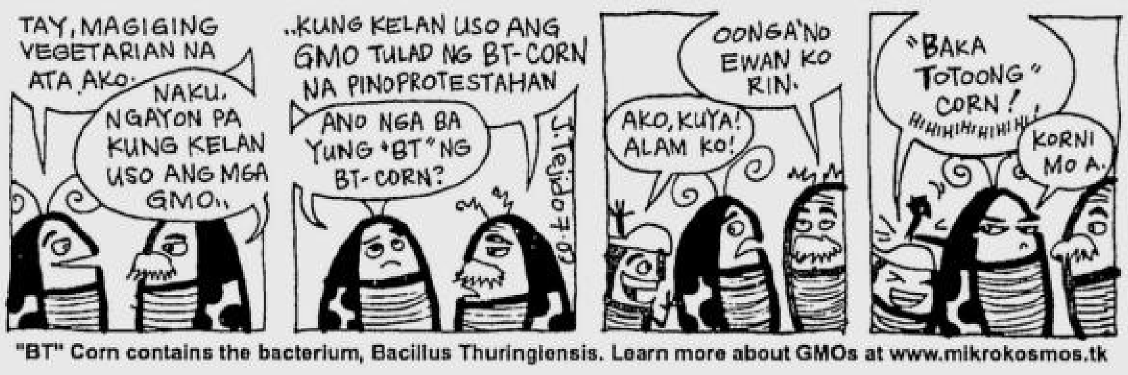
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HERE. JUST ADD HOT WATER TO THE POOL TO WARM IT UP A BIT.
I DIDN'T THINK THE WATER FROM THE HOSE WOULD BE SO COLD!
WELL THIS SHOULD DO THE TRICK! LET ME KNOW IF YOU NEED MORE...
THANKS!
OOPS!
TONK
SO? FEEL BETTER NOW?

MIKROKOSMOS

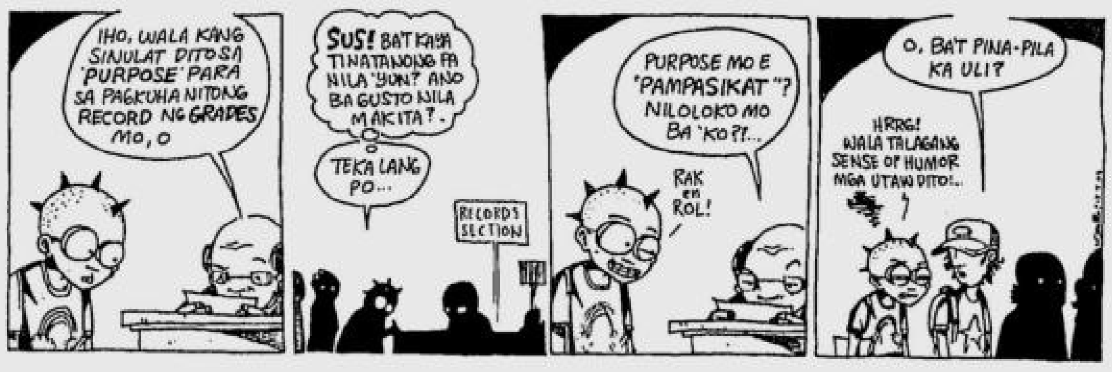
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


TAY, MAGIGING VEGETARIAN NA ATA AKO.
NAKU. NGAYON PA KUNG KELAN USO ANG MGA GMO..
..KUNG KELAN USO ANG GMO TULAD NG BT-CORN NA PINOPROTESTAHAN
ANO NGA BA YUNG "BT" NG BT-CORN?
J. Tejido 03
OONGA'NO EWAN KO RIN.
AKO, KUYA! ALAM KO!
"BAKA TOTOONG" CORN!
HIHIHIHIHIHIHI
KORNI MO A.

"BT" Corn contains the bacterium, Bacillus Thuringiensis. Learn more about GMOs at www.mikrokosmos.tk

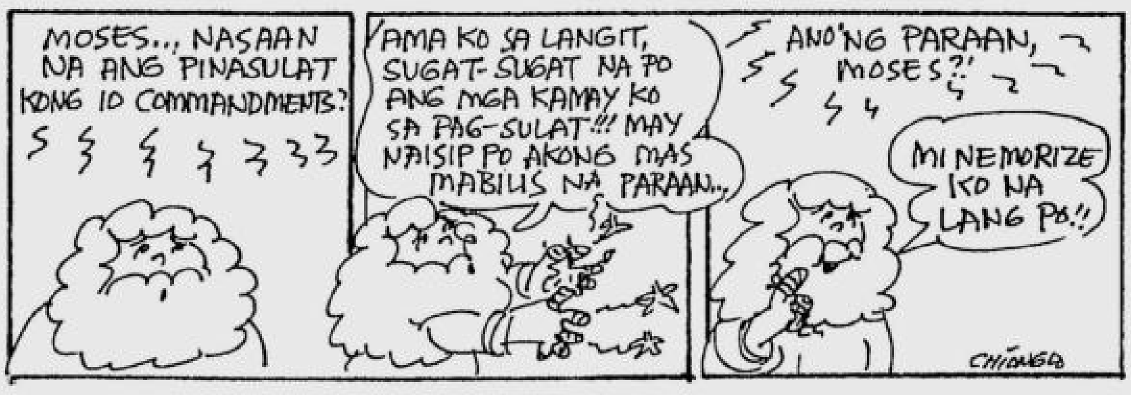
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


IHO, WALA KANG SINULAT DITO SA 'PURPOSE' PARA SA PAGKUHA NITONG RECORD NG GRADES MO, O
SUS! BAT KAYA TINATANONG PA NILA 'YUN? ANO BA GUSTO NILA MAKITA?
TEKA LANG PO...
RECORDS SECTION
PURPOSE MO E "PAMPASIKAT"? NILOLOKO MO BA 'KO?!..
RAK EN ROL!
O, BAT PINA-PILA KA ULI?
HRRG! WALA TALAGANG SENSE OF HUMOR MGA UTAW DITO!..

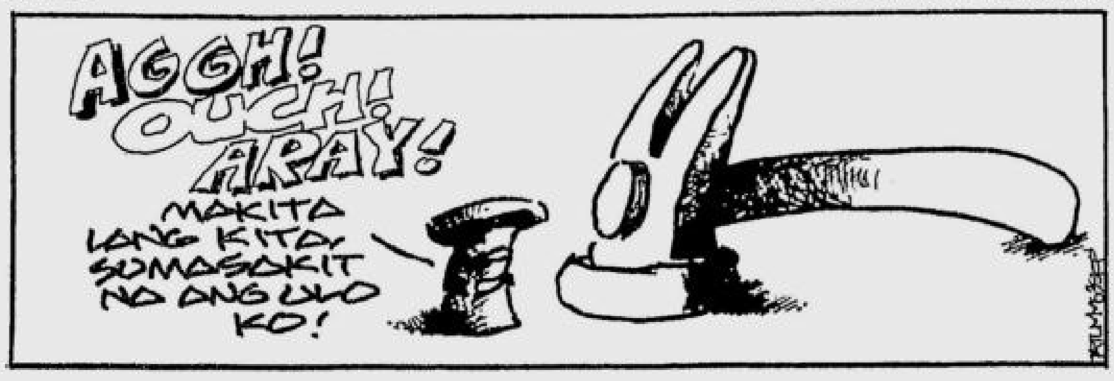
LOVEKNOTS

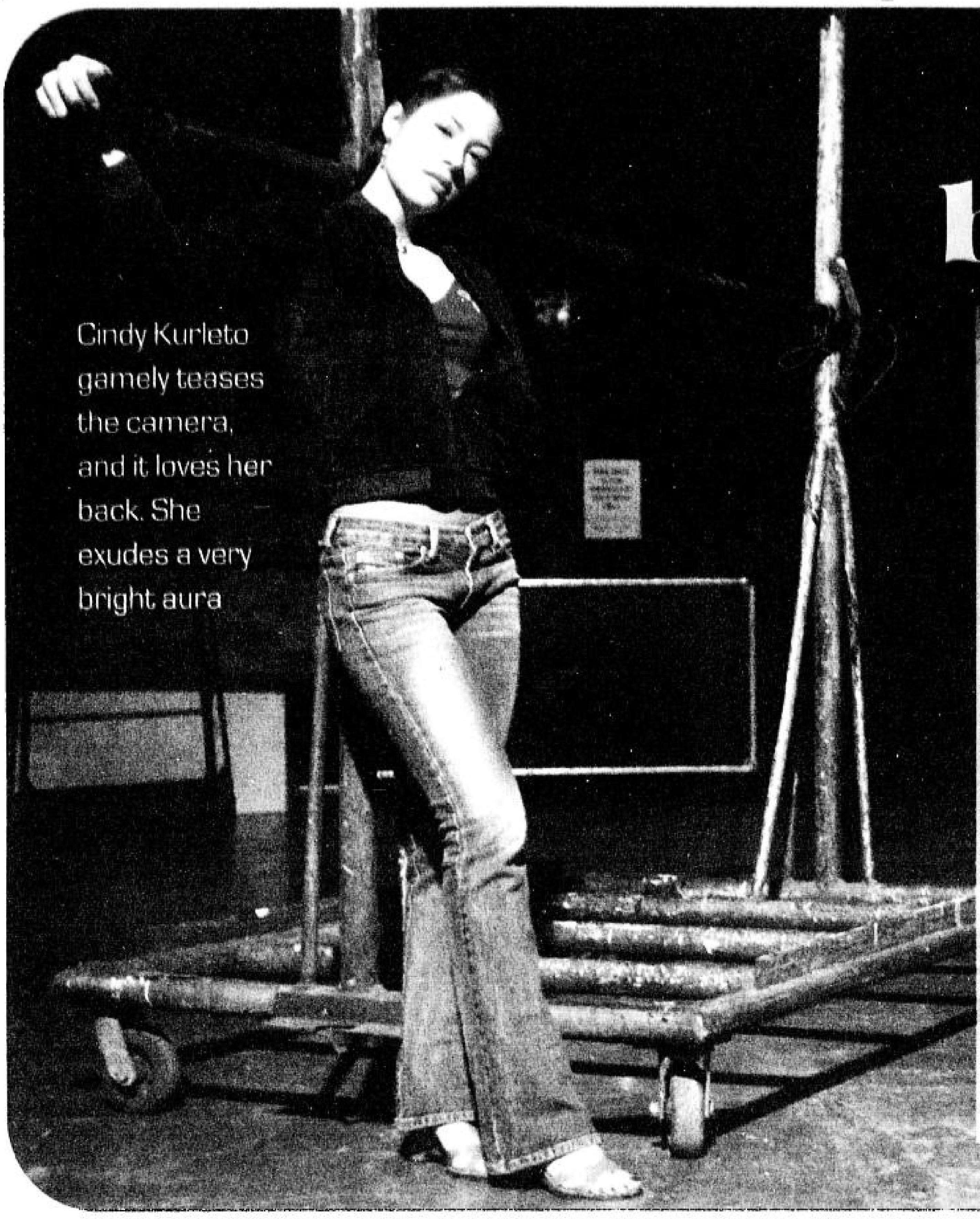
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MOSES.., NASAAN NA ANG PINASULAT KONG 10 COMMANDMENTS?
AMA KO SA LANGIT, SUGAT-SUGAT NA PO ANG MGA KAMAY KO SA PAG-SULAT!!! MAY NAISIP PO AKONG MAS MABILIS NA PARAAN..
ANO'NG PARAAN, MOSES?!
MINEMORIZE KO NA LANG PO!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


AGGH! OUCH! ARAY!
MAKITA LANG KITA, SUMASAKIT NA ANG ULO KO!



Cindy Kurleto gamely teases the camera, and it loves her back. She exudes a very bright aura

The next big thing

By Tim Yap
Photos By Ericka Fife
Makeup By Berns Duenas

"I AM a Filipina," she says matter-of-factly, wondering where all the talk came from about immigration people demanding documents to prove this point. Funny how things like this happen just when one is about to shoot for the top.

Cindy Kurleto is Tinseltown's latest "it" girl. On testosterone-spurred insistence, she is seen daily on the noontime show "Masayang Tanghali Bayan," where she spends most mornings and early afternoons. "You think it's just two and a half hours, but it's very time consuming." Evenings are for photo shoots, tapings, and more photo shoots. Her face graces the latest cover of Metro magazine.

In spite of her popularity, the girl is very down to earth. And she's smart, much unlike the dumb temptress type that people may suspect her to be. She observes: "It's funny how, just because people see you everyday on TV, they think they know you."

This writer's first encounter with Cindy was at the former Pravda, where she hung out with her buddy Sarah Meier, dancing the night away. Next thing I know, she's in my home one Sunday, musing about life and all its excitements. Months later, her face is on a giant billboard on Edsa. Within another month, she is on TV, and on the cover of Manual magazine, too. What's gonna happen next month?

"I'd like to do comedy. Drama is too taxing, and real life already has too much drama. I see actors around me over-internalizing their roles, and becoming over-sensitive to their surroundings. Their acting coaches encourage them! And I'm like—whoa, relax!"

For this shoot, we pull her out of her taping for MTB into a deserted studio. Actress turned photographer Ericka Fife does a quick set up, changes lenses, and clicks away. Cindy gamely teases the camera, which loves her back. She exudes a very bright, very happy aura, curiously infused with self-deprecating humor. When we sit down to view the images, she says, simply, almost cheerfully: "I look tired."

Cindy is ready for the world. Movies, more shows, commercials—roll 'em all in. "I'm in the process of shooting some stuff. I barely have enough time to breathe."

She pauses, then smiles.

---

ptation Island..

Temptation Island...Live!

By Miguel Rosales

What, you didn't catch it?

HOW do you revive a classic and make it fresh for today's audiences?

Well, if you're Jon Lapuz and company, you do a stage version.

I'm talking about the comedy, "Temptation Island...Live!" presented at the CCP Tanghalang Huseng Batute last July 5 and 6. Adapted and directed by Chris Martinez from Joey Gosiengfiao's vintage high camp film, "Temptation Island," the play was staged to capacity audiences who roared with laughter as every scene unfolded.

The story opens with the spotlight on Bambi, Azenith, Suzanne, and Dina, finalists in the Ms Manila Sunshine beauty contest in the 1980s. A yachting accident leaves the gals and a few male survivors stranded on a deserted island.

Shame on 'Survivor'

Imagine the cast of characters: beauty queens (here portrayed by, well, drag queens), a study of a stow away, a gigolo, a waiter, a photographer-slash-boytoy, an all-white-wearing diva producer (nicely played by Richie Chan), and a super subservient *yaya*.

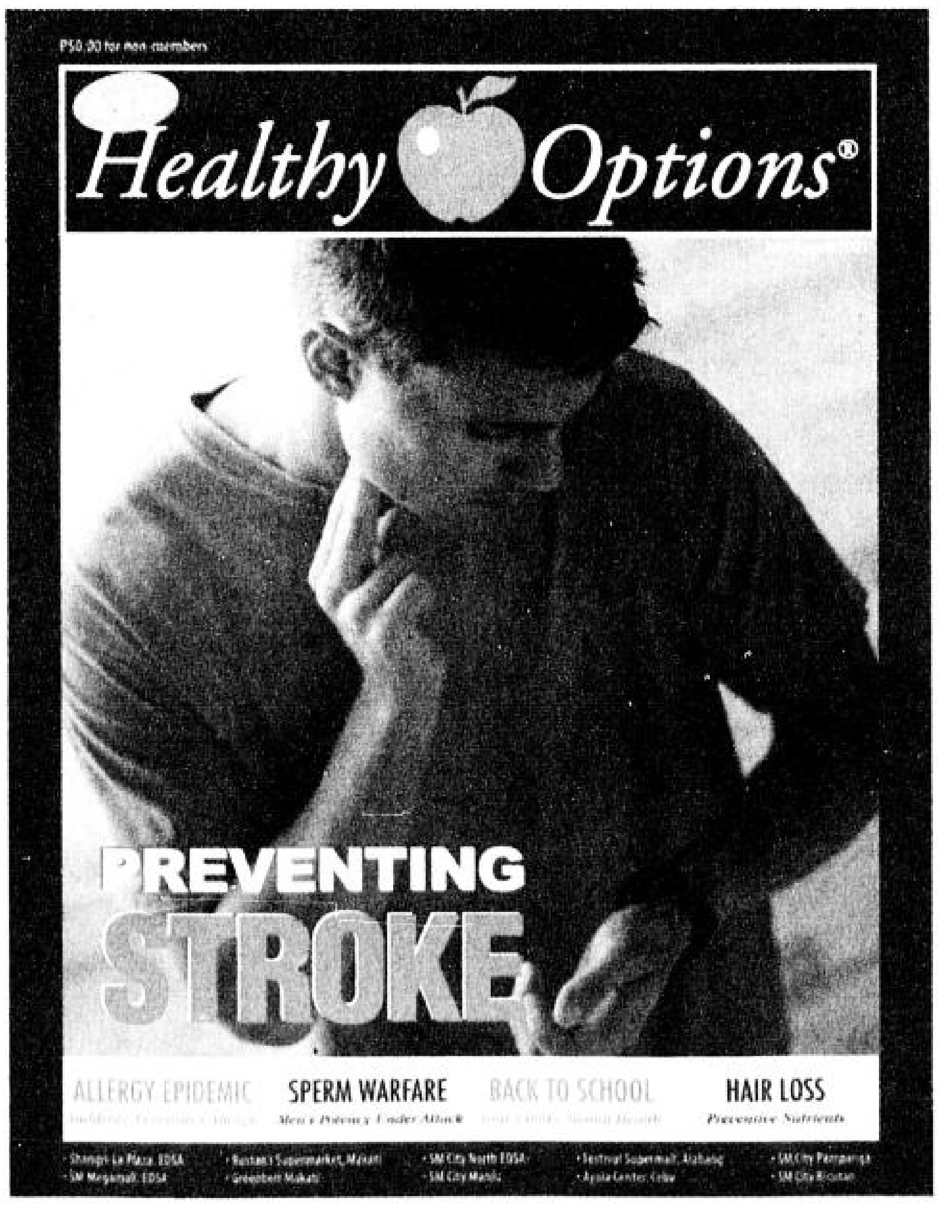
They have nothing to eat or drink in the middle of nowhere. Bewildering events beat anything you've seen on the "Survivor" series! You get the picture.

Spartan sets include pink sand, a giant fried chicken and ice cream, a plastic palm tree, and a rescue chopper that puts the one in "Miss Saigon" to shame.

Jon Lapuz (as Azenith Tobias), Raymond Sydney (as Bambi Belisario), Peter Serrano (as Suzanne Reyes), and Tuxqs Rutaquio (as Dina Espinola) are cleverly cast. Jonelle Sales is great as *Yaya* Maria. Model-actors Reggie Curley and Christian Vasquez are "eye candies" who also play their parts well.

Staging the play in that small theater made it more intimate and enjoyable. However, it might benefit from some editing, owing to its length.

And since the run was limited, it was no surprise that the performances were sold out. For those who didn't get to see it, keep your fingers crossed for repeats.



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☐ Migraine headaches with aura
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The next big thing
page G3

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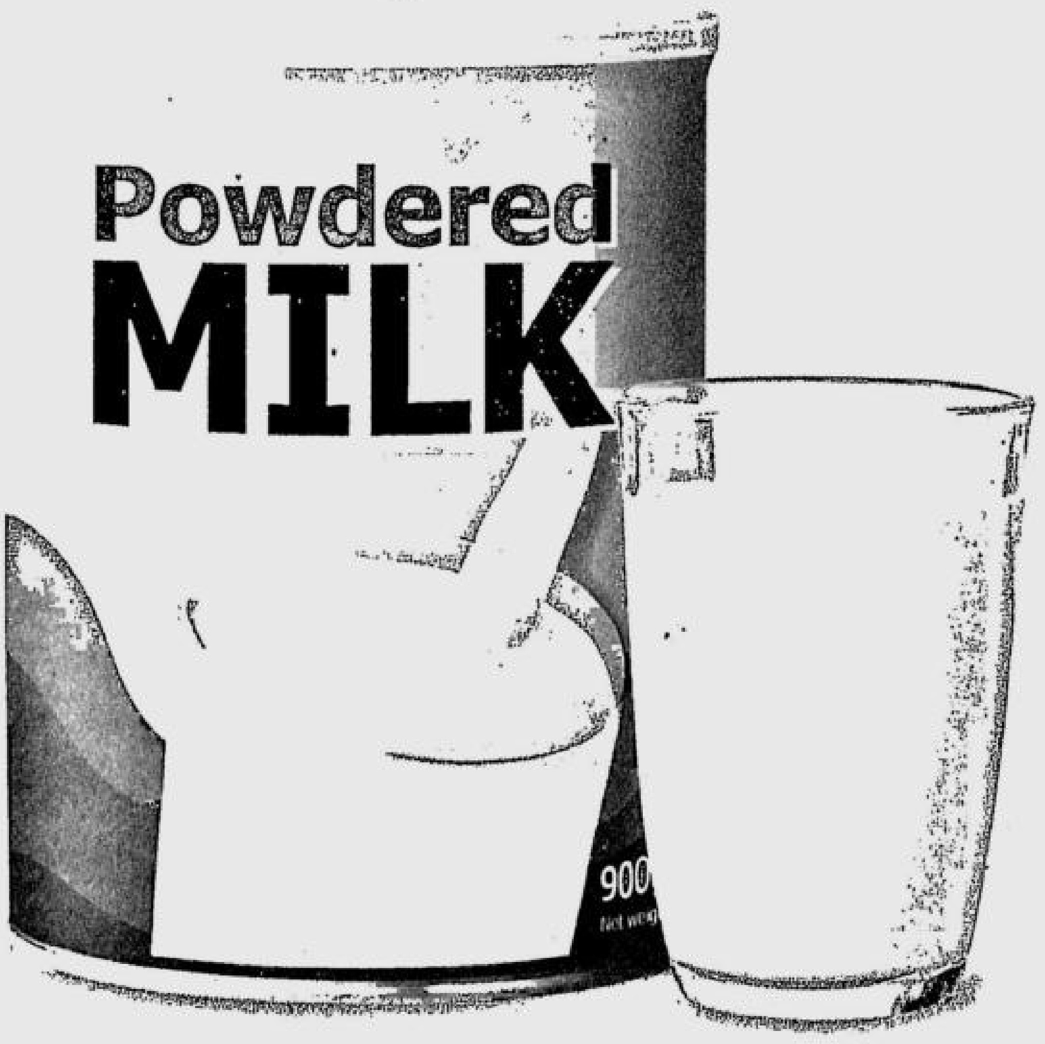
Saan ka makakaMOOra?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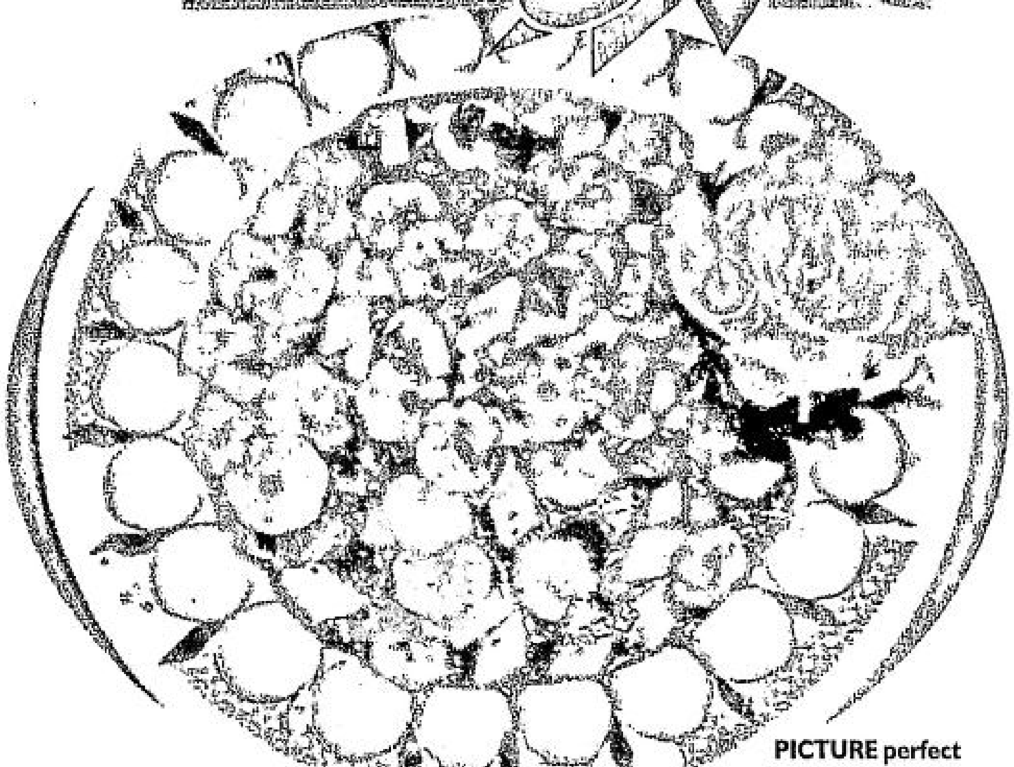
New 1L Selecta Moo Sweet Milk. P29.80 lang!
Calcium-enriched sweet milk na ready to drink.
May Selecta quality sa presyong kaya.
Tamang tamis. Tamang timpla.

Raising the quality of food for the Filipino RFM



PICTURE perfect plate presentation

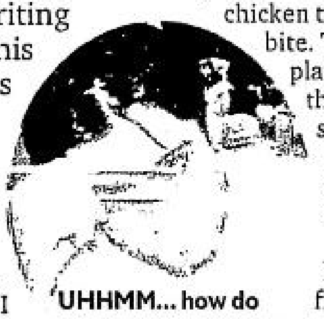
TINA TASTES

Paolo Montalban @ the Szechuan House

By Tina Pamintuan

THE ELEMENT of surprise is a wonderful thing. You can discover the whole truth about a restaurant by visiting one on a whim and not telling the management that you are writing about the place. This once, I tried just that. As a regular customer... with a not-so-regular date.

Paolo Montalban picked me up, and soon we were on our way to the Aloha Hotel. Although they were not apparent, I had hidden chills, not because my date was an international actor and singer, but because he is an attractive guy.

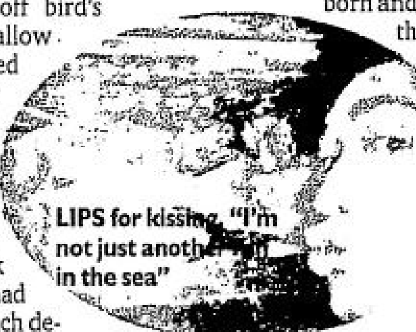


UHHMM... how do you use these things?

Or maybe it was because it was really cold inside the van. Paolo likes the air-conditioning set full blast. In my thin halter tank top, I froze, naturally. Mercifully, it did not take long for me to warm up to him. What a few laughs could do to break the ice! Before we knew it, we had arrived at the Szechuan House, and were conversing with much ease.

As we finished our bird's nest soup, I mentioned Discovery Channel's recent documentary about bird's nests in the Philippines, which showed how tribal men in Palawan climbed up caves and scraped these jellyfish-like particles literally off bird's nests. What it is, is swallow saliva drippings. Cooked usually with egg, it tastes much better than it sounds (I promise).

Paolo actually thought it was part of the egg. He was in shock after I told him. But he had finished his soup with much delight, like a little boy hungry for more. And hungry we both were, to say the least! I saw that the "Mortal Kombat" action hero really relished eating. It was refreshing to see such exuberance in a grown man.

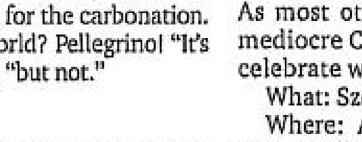


LIPS for kissing. "I'm not just another fish in the sea"

Hot! Hot!

The other dishes arrived all at once. Sautéed freshwater eel and onions stewed to tenderness in a light sauce (yum!), delicately seasoned *suaje* (shrimps) cooked with *singkamas* (turnips) and chillies, lightly sauced huge clams also with chillies.

Szechuan cuisine is hot, as it usually involves marinating in, and cooking with, a lot of chillies—medium to large-size dried ones that you can actually chew and eat, not like our local *labuyo*. But the Chinese chefs could customize the dish according to how much spiciness you can tolerate.



BEST bet bread, fried or steamed

Paolo thought a beer would go well with the meal, to cool him down. As it was getting a little too hot for him, he even asked for ice, which he said he rarely took with his Pilsen. And when he drank water, he said, he preferred sparkling to still, for the carbonation. His favorite drink in the world? Pellegrino! "It's like drinking beer," he said, "but not."

Silly boy!

I think, what makes the Szechuan House unique is the fried roll. Diners crave and come back for this. The restaurant bakes its own bread fresh everyday, since this is what goes with all the main dishes instead of the usual steamed or fried rice.

Imagine the well-loved sweet *pao*, but long and firm, and shaped like a mini baguette loaf; white and soft but thinly covered on the outside with a scrumptious crust that tastes like a crunchy, crispy donut. Kind of like Paolo, built tough on the outside, apparently soft at the core and, by all indications, yummy!

Spice man

The fried roll is sliced in portions and you dip it in the sauce with the chillies, shrimp, chicken to make that one . . . perfect . . . bite. The crust is the best part. Paolo played with his food, removing the middle portion of the bread so he could replace it with meat. He ate with his bare hands because, he declared, "Chopsticks slow me down!"

And so, getting sauce all over his hands, he started to lick his fingers. He looked like he was struggling to make what looked like a clam chowder bread bowl.

Finally, the bestseller, and definitely my personal favorite: the steamed *lapu-lapu* with tauso. Tauso is a bean just like tausi but not quite, as it tastes a hundred times better. It is a white bean when deep-fried and poured over the fish as a topping, tastes like ginger, garlic and *latik* (coconut on top of *biko*), all at once! It is best to enjoy this slowly, to draw maximum pleasure from the aroma and flavor of the herbs. These tauso beans, as well as most of the other precious, hard-to-find herbs and spices, are imported from China.

A precious spice himself, United States-born and bred Paolo brought himself to the Philippines to share his talent and experience with Filipinos. With much success, too. We discussed his image as a celebrity here.

I always thought Paolo had a clean, good-boy, soft-spoken and gentle look. I was sure he was the type you could bring home to mom because she would adore him. I asked if, beneath the all-man muscles, smooth skin, and flawless smile, he had a naughty streak.

His reply: "Mothers watch your daughters. That's the paradigm."

What could I say?

And now the final course. Eggplant with braised, slowly cooked whole garlic cloves. Each exaggerated spoonful would contain at least three cloves of garlic—surely not a dish to order on a date. "Its good for you!" he assured me, then proceeded to . . . feed me. Could I say no?

In the end we agreed it was a very enjoyable evening for the both of us—with spicy food and spiced-up company.

The Szechuan House regulars are mostly loyal customers who have patronized the place for years. Established in 1977 by Manuel O. Chua, it is now run by Dorian Chua. The managers, cooks and waiters have also been around from the start. My favorite server Jerry knows the menu inside and out. As most other hotels charge a fortune for mediocre Chinese cooking, there is much to celebrate with these authentic pioneers.

What: Szechuan House

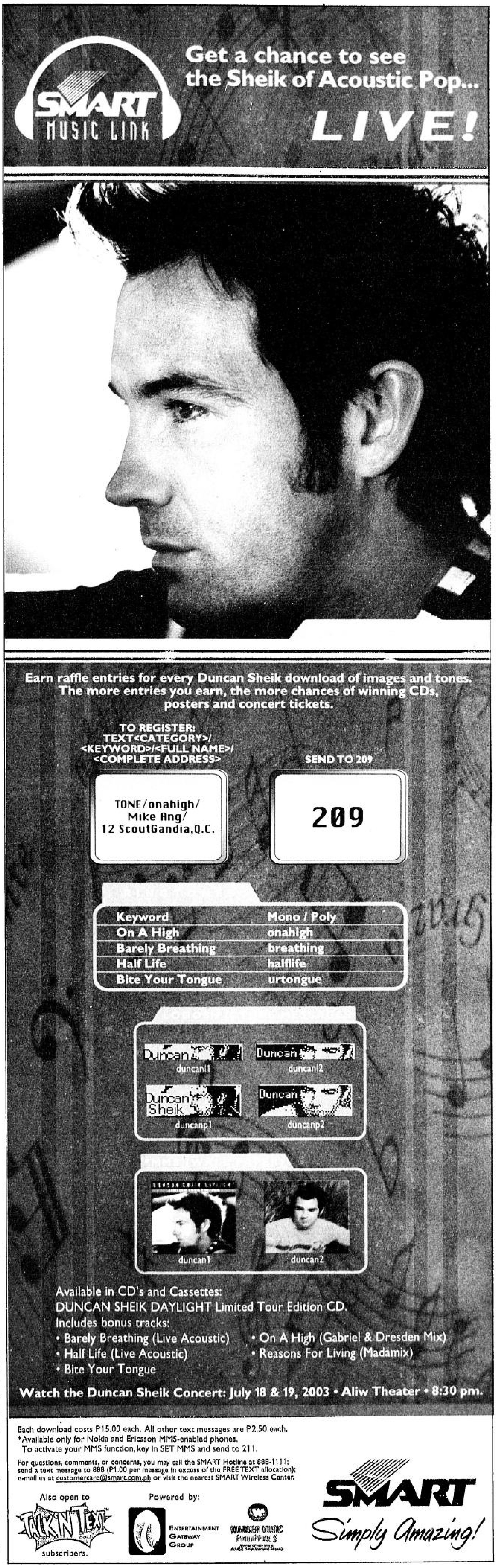
Where: Aloha Hotel, 2150 Roxas Blvd., Malate, Manila

When: Lunch 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m./Dinner 6 to10 p.m. everyday

How much: P200 to P500/ head

Contact: Romeo Estanislao/ F&B manager, tels. 526-8088, 338-8088

(For questions, comments and suggestions: tina_tastes@yahoo.com)



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SMART Simply Amazing!

NOT just another model-turned-actor

Almost Paradise

Paolo Paraiso is rising to stardom. It's a roller coaster ride, he says, and he's having the time of his life

By Tim Yap
Styling By Mylene Dizon
Makeup by Xeng Zulueta of Shu Emura

"I'M having fun," is how Paolo Paraiso describes his show biz roller coaster ride.

One of Manila's top male models, Paolo rose to fame via a string of commercials that sold a whole lot of products, from toothpaste to jeans to fruit punch.

In no time, offers to step into show biz proper were waiting at his doorstep. He wasn't ready for the adventure until after a year or so.

Now, he juggles ramp jobs with tapings and shoots. He is one of the new characters in the Sunday soap, "Tabing Ilog." The rest of the time he does numerous guestings and appearances. He is also the endorser of apparel brand 2B and AND1—a perfect fit for this basketball aficionado.

Paolo is not one of those I-am-God's-gift-to-women types of guys. On the contrary, he is a man's man, the kind you'd like to be drinking buddies with. And you can be sure he won't steal your girl. In fact, he's the sort you wouldn't mind your younger sister to end up with.

More casual than posh, Pao opts for giant tees and big basketball shorts when not working. He talks in a husky bedroom voice spiced up with throaty chuckles. But it's more funny and endearing than seductive. Seems to be the story of his life: he's childlike and playful.

While stylist Mylene Dizon was fixing up for the shoot, Paolo's manager Cecille Laigo tells him that Mylene's son was in the playground. He looks for the kid and, finding him, screams, "Waazzuuppp!" They began horsing around like two long-lost brothers.

A real pro, he slips in and out of clothes like a chameleon—pensive and brooding one moment, uninhibited and wacky the next. He knows his best angles. If he could muster the same ease in acting, he's a shoo-in.

"At first, feeling ko, *ibang-iba*," he says of his first few months as a celeb. "But I'm loving it now." The girls are loving him back.

What's the best thing about being Paolo Paraiso?

I've been given the chance to work and at the same time have fun, experiencing new things and being challenged by them.

The worst?

Being myself. I put a lot of pressure on myself to achieve goals that I have set, to the point that sometimes I don't enjoy the ride towards those goals.

What's the best thing about the industry?

I haven't been in show biz long enough to comment on it. But I guess meeting a lot of people and experiencing different work and personal environments.

The worst?

Misconceptions about models who go into show biz.

What is the biggest difference between show biz and the fashion world?

Not much, I think, apart from the fact that show biz celebrities are better known and more susceptible to gossip and intrigue.

How long do you see yourself staying in the biz?

As long as audiences continue to appreciate what I'm doing.

Who do you look up to in show biz?

Those who have made a name for themselves—Goma, Dolphy, Edu ....

What was the best advice ever given to you?

To aim high but keep my feet on the ground.

Dream job?

To own and manage a beach resort in Palawan or Boracay, complete with all water sports facilities.

Current state of mind?

Basically, to seize the day and suck in as much experience as possible, and try to enjoy every minute of it.

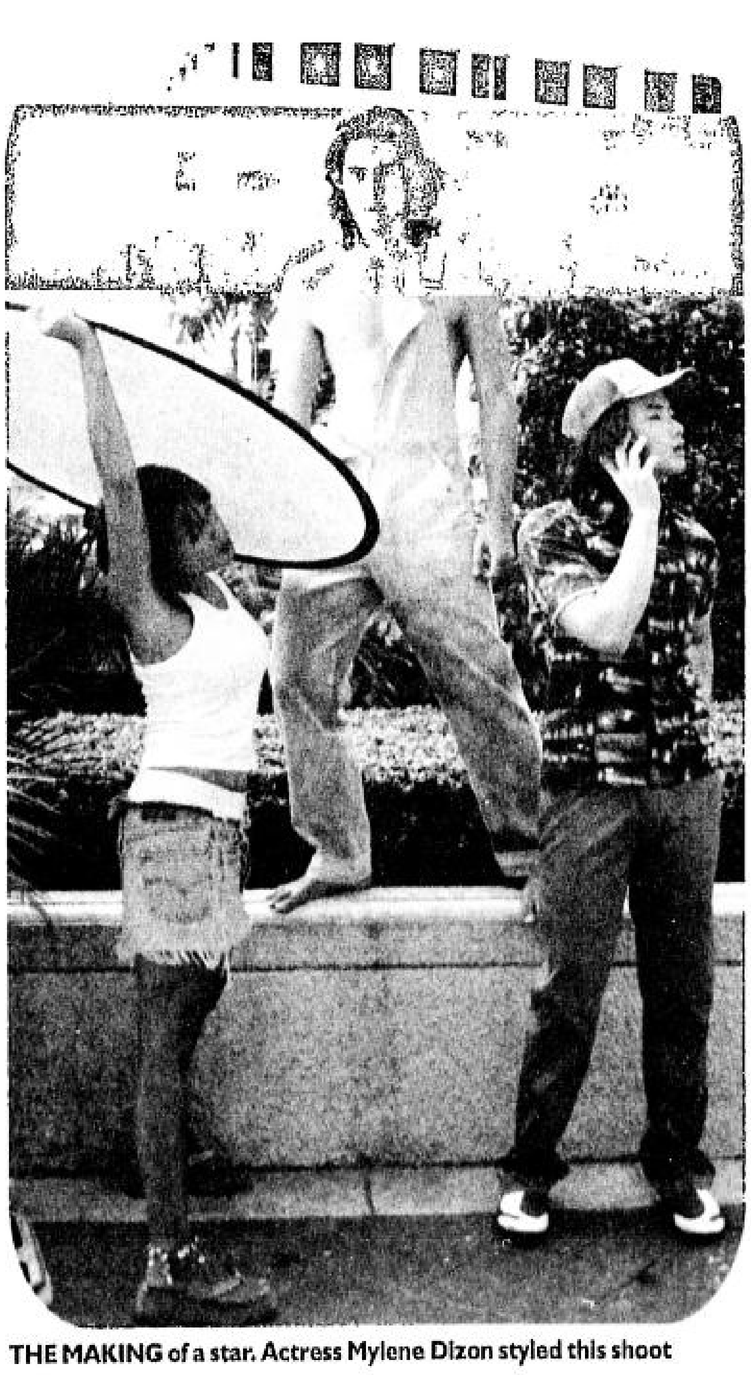
PLAYFUL. Vintage neon paisley shirt from American Rag

SEXY. Snakeskin jacket by Roberto Cavalli

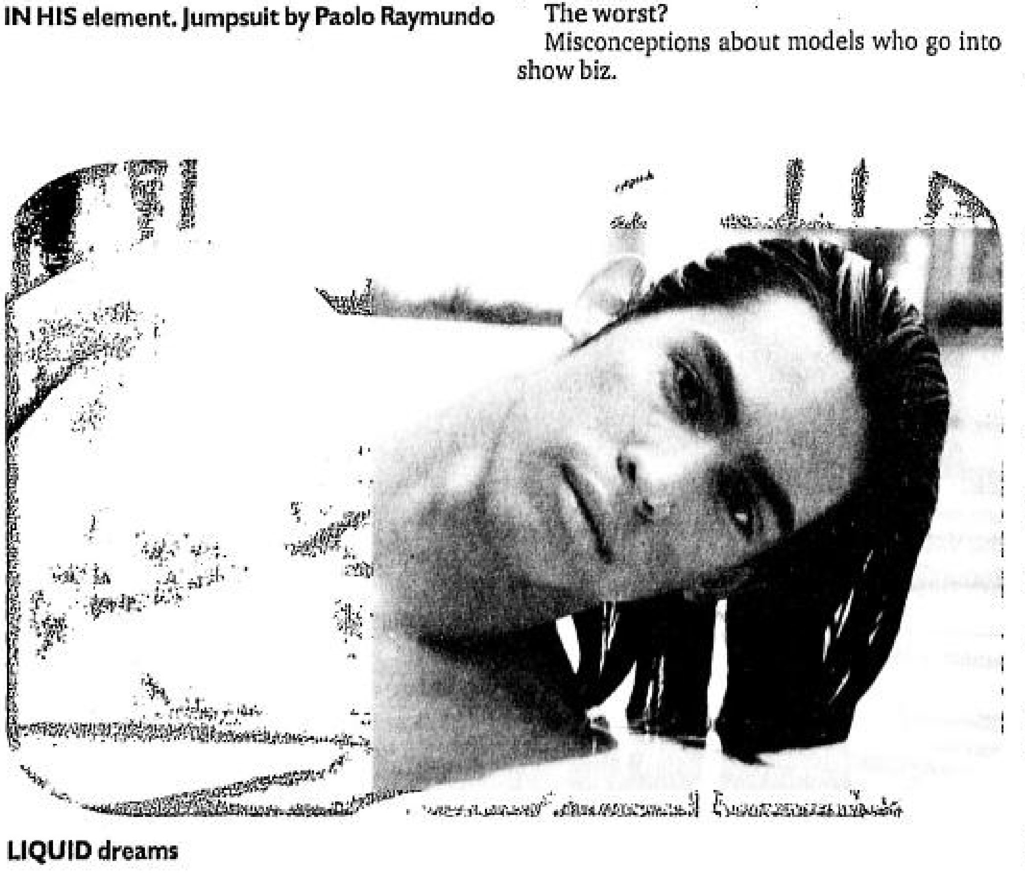
"I PUT a lot of pressure on myself"

IN HIS element. Jumpsuit by Paolo Raymundo

PENSIVE. Black embroidered matador jacket by Kate Torralba



THE MAKING of a star. Actress Mylene Dizon styled this shoot



LIQUID dreams

Mura, the midget, whether male or female, would still be a novel act

TWINS? Not exactly. Mahal and Mura have chemistry on and off screen

But why the drag show?

Photos By Ericka Fife

WHEN Boy Abunda aired a feature on the midget named Mahal and her love affair with a normal boy named Jimbo, ABS-CBN knew they had a winner.

The masses fell in love with the diminutive woman who talked about her love life as openly as Kris Aquino. During news days of impending war and disease, Mahal and her man made Filipino televiewers sit up ... and melt.

Kilig.

Now that the boyfriend is out of the picture, in comes a look-alike. Are they twins? Many think they are. Hollywood has the Olsen twins; we have Mahal and Mura. Now there's not just one, but two, half-sized humans singing and dancing for noontime TV addicts nationwide. In a country that delights in *perya* culture—with jesters, jugglers, dwarves and freak shows—the formula was another hit.

Mura is the latest novelty star, dishing out cute antics and flashing cherubic smiles. One cannot help but compare the two, though they look almost identical. Mura has become a TV staple. She is everywhere, from noontime variety to show biz talk shows. Last week, she had a big birthday celebration on "Masayang Tanghali Bayan," where she is a regular. The midget back-to-back act is said to have boosted the show's ratings.

Diff'rent strokes

We are not poking fun at the kind of entertainment that the boob-tube coughs up. To each his own taste, really. Whatever the market craves at the moment, then so be it.

Nor do we wish to depict Mahal or Mura as victims of exploitation. They are adults who can make decisions for themselves and their careers. They are doing something worth their while, we suppose, since they also support families.

Our curiosity boils down to one question that's been on everyone's minds since the news broke out on the net, and in last week's column, Swak! by Lex. Is Mura actually a guy?

Industry insiders confirm this, but in very hushed tones, indeed. When we expressed interest in a Mura feature for Super, an actor told a colleague of ours, "Did you know that's a guy?" Lex asked his sources at the station to check this out, and, they all reluctantly admitted: Mura is a 29-year-old male midget! Super got in touch with her/his manager, Selina Racho, who refused to comment on the matter.

Which brings us to another question: How important is an entertainer's sexuality vis-à-vis his ability to entertain? Does a matinée idol lose all credibility and respect if he confirms he's gay?

But even if Mura were in fact a guy, the act with Mahal would still be novel. It is their personalities and life stories that endeared them to the public in the first place. So why the drag show? *Tim Yap*

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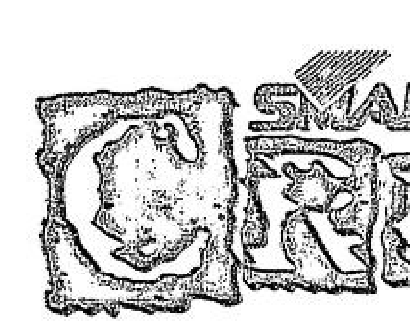

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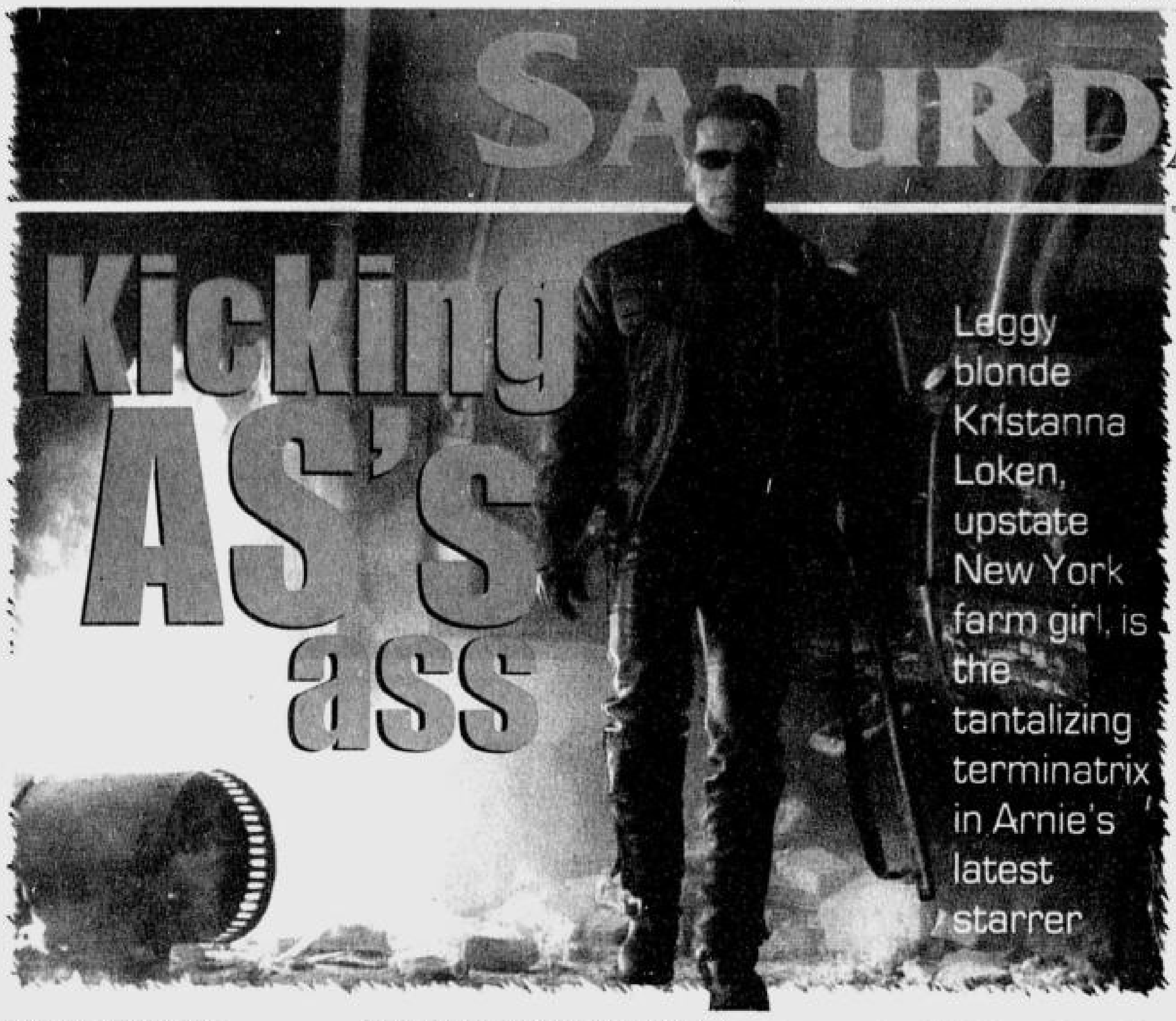

Kicking AS's ass

Leggy blonde Kristanna Loken, upstate New York farm girl, is the tantalizing terminatrix in Arnie's latest starrer

By Ruben V. Nepales
(Exclusive to Super)

LOS ANGELES, California—Arnold Schwarzenegger's latest nemesis is not a 300-pound wrestler, or a bodybuilder bulkier than he is.

Poised to terminate Arnie in "Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines" is Kristanna Loken, a leggy blonde who was an Elite Look of the Year runner-up in Ibiza, Spain when she was just 15. She grew up in her parents' organic fruit farm, surrounded by a petting zoo and hundreds of visiting children, a roadside market, and a bakery.

As T-X, Loken does not weigh a mere 300 pounds. She's a 3,000-pound cyborg killing machine disguised as a woman in a sleek burgundy leather jacket and pants. She gets to toss around the former Mr. Universe/Mr. Olympia/Mr. World without messing her hair which is tightly tied in a bun.

So how did the former upstate New York farm girl feel about kicking Arnold's butt?

"It is definitely, metaphorically right that for my first big break, I'm fighting one of cinema history's most powerful men," she told us in an interview at a downtown L.A. studio. "It was empowering to work with him and feed off his energy."

In filming her spectacular fight scenes with Arnold, Kristanna was careful not to screw up or else disfigure Arnold's face, "which must be worth $30 million. I was always thinking, 'Don't miss your mark, Kristanna.' And I didn't!"

Ground-breaking FX

Of Arnold off-screen, the Norway-born beauty, who moved to the United States with her parents when she was in her early teens, said: "He's the classic jokester on the set.

But when the cameras start rolling: "When you're working with that much expensive equipment and effects, you really need to focus. And there are a lot of times when you get only one shot at a scene, so you can't play around."

In this third part of the hit "Terminator" series, Kristanna is the most sophisticated, powerful terminatrix brought to earth to kill John Connor (now a young man played by Nick Stahl) who, with his mom, thwarted Judgment Day in "T2." Arnold's T-101 cyborg stands in the way of the machine's quest to crush mankind.

The nude "birthing" scene, when Kristanna's T-X cyborg enters the earth, takes place quite appropriately in the ultimate shopper's paradise, Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills. From this genteel consumer oasis, the T-X, an advanced alloy metal endoskeleton with liquid metal exterior (which explains her 3,000-pound weight gain) pursues her targets, resulting in relentless action and ground-breaking special effects. A chase scene through the streets of LA and a

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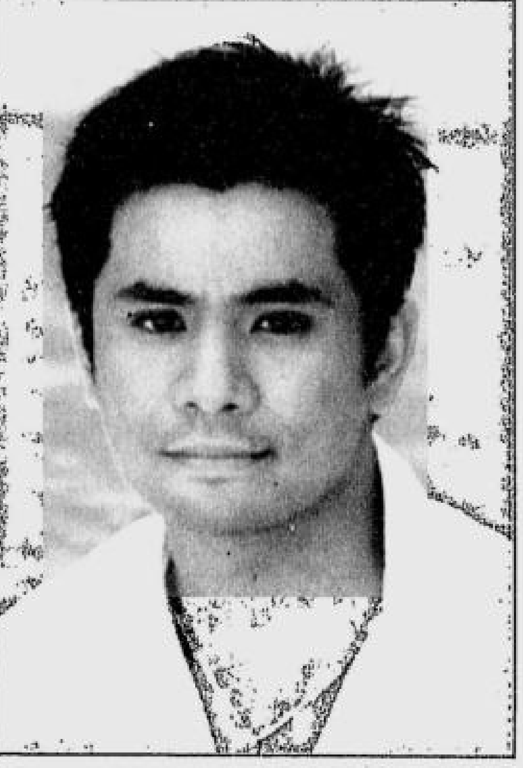

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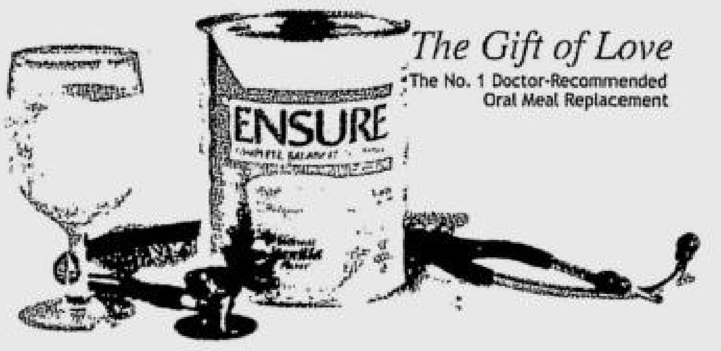

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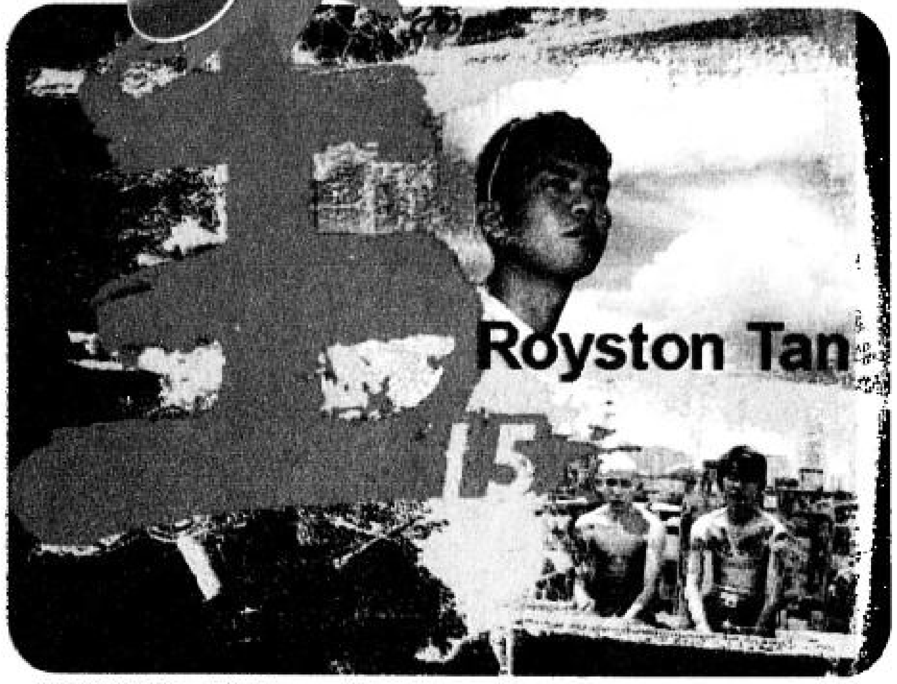


ROYSTON Tan: The New and the Now filmmaker in Asia.

By Beia Formoso

DARKNESS.

Beats.

Light slashes the screen, etching a tattoo on the back of a young man standing in the middle of a desert.

The tattoo reads: "Who will know what is weighing in one's mind?"

So goes the opening scene of "15," by award-winning director Royston Tan, which will premiere at the fifth annual Makati Cinemanila International Film Festival.

The 27-year-old Tan has been heralded as Singapore's most promising short filmmaker. He has collected over 20 international and local film awards for his short films, documentaries and music videos. In 2002, he was named Young Artist of the Year by the Singapore National Arts Council.

Tan's first full-length feature film, "15" charts the misadventures of teenagers on the fringe of Singaporean society. Acted by real street kids, it reveals the gritty side of modern-day Singapore life that many never knew existed. Displaying a masterfully visual eye and impressive technical competence, the young director jolts the audience's complacency with images so brutal, they hurt.

The protagonists, shunned by the mainstream and neglected by a society that prizes excellence above all else, seek an explanation for their "aimless" existence. Soon enough they find themselves caught in a world of drugs, violence and self-destruction.

"15" was originally a short film released in 2001 that won numerous awards and screened in festivals around the globe, including last year's Makati Cinemanila. It was expanded into a feature film this year, and short-listed for Official Selection at the Cannes Film Festival. At the Tampere Film Festival in Finland, "15" won the Grand Fiction Award, with the jurors praising it as "a touchingly told story of young minds reacting to the bewildering absurdity of an achievement-oriented world."

On its fifth year, the Makati Cinemanila International Film Festival features the work of Singapore's most promising young director and a thriller from Indonesia

"TUSUK Jelangkung" is not your usual "Blair Witch Project."

As for horror flicks ...

Makati Cinemanila sparked a mania that terrified—and mesmerized—local audiences by hosting the Philippine premieres of the Japanese horror trilogy: "The Ring," and "The Ring 2" by Hideo Nakata, and "The Ring 0" by Norio Tsuruta, last year.

This year, there's "Tusuk Jelangkung" by directing duo Rizal Mantovani and Jose Purnomo.

Released just this year from Indonesia, the movie is based on the Jelangkung, an ancient Javanese game (similar to the Ouija board game), which uses dolls that are believed to have the ability to rouse angry souls.

"Tusuk Jelangkung" is the tale of four university students who have one thing in common, a morbid interest for the supernatural. They spend time exploring haunted sites and investigating urban legends in the Indonesian capital of Jakarta. Frustrated for failing to experience encounters with the "other" world, the students resort to researching satanic legends outside the city.

This brings them to Angkerbatu, a village in West Java, where it is said that the spirit of a vengeful little boy who, wrongly accused of causing disease was lynched by a mob, roams the forests.

The thrill seekers perform an ancient ceremony on the boy's tomb using the Jelangkung but it doesn't seem to work. Upon their return to Jakarta, however, one horrifying incident after another occurs. Frightened out of their wits, they seek help to get rid of the angry spirit.

Since 1999, Makati Cinemanila International Film Festival has been bringing to Philippine shores the best and latest in international cinema. The annual festival is a project of the City of Makati under Mayor Jejomar C. Binay and the Independent Cinema Association of the Philippines (ICAP) founded by Amable "Tikoy" Aguiluz VI.

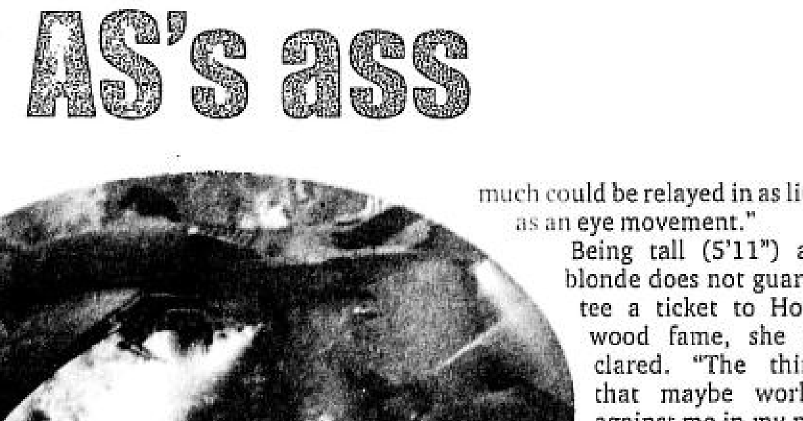
This year's exhibition will run from Aug. 7 to 24 at the Greenbelt Cinemas.

(For more information, log on to www.cinemanila.com.ph)

KRISTANNA Loken takes girl power to a higher level.

Kicking AS's ass

From page 11


TERMINATOR 3 boasts of super visual effects that no moviegoer has seen before.

no-holds-barred *mano-a-mano* between T-X and T-101 are the film's strongest parts.

Pablo Helman, who, with his team at George Lucas' award-winning Industrial Light & Magic, created the film's over 300 visual effects (compared to only 47 in "T2"), is especially proud of his work with T-X.

He told us: "Jonathan (Mostow, the director) loved the first "Terminator," but by the end of that film, when the Terminator becomes an endo-skeleton, there is a "disconnect." It isn't Arnold's character anymore; it is another character. Jonathan was really concerned about losing that with Kristanna's T-X, when she is reduced to an endo-skeleton. So we used a process called "motion capture," in which we copied Kristanna doing these very deliberate movements as a cyborg. So even if you're looking at a robot near the end, there's still a sense of Kristanna in that robot."

A scene showing Kristanna's liquid metal exterior peeling off is one of the movie's ground-breaking achievements in visual effects.

Bizarre experience

How does one prepare to play a robot? "I took it upon myself to train with an undefeated kick boxing champion even before I got the job, to tap into that warrior side of myself," explained the actress, who earlier played Taja on the TV series, "Mortal Kombat: Conquest."

"I also did quite extensive training with a mime coach to get the non-human aspect of behavior and movement," she continued. "Basically what that did was to make me aware of my body's different muscular groups, and teach me how to "alienate" different ones and make them move independently of one another."

She continued: "Everything I did was so bizarre. In some scenes, I'm running but I have my arms straight out (she demonstrates), firing and taking bullets."

It was another challenge to tackle a role with minimal dialogue. "It was a great experience because I realized how actors often tend to use words at high volume. You tend to think, just get the word out there—if I say it, then it's done. It was really interesting to learn how much could be relayed in as little as an eye movement."

Being tall (5'11") and blonde does not guarantee a ticket to Hollywood fame, she declared. "The things that maybe worked against me in my past really worked for me this time. With my height, deep voice and physicality, I really went for it. I didn't let anything stand in my way. I also had a specific kind of strength that I really got to tap."

Kristanna, an equestrienne who has competed in Hawaii, Ireland and Namibia, deliberately gained 15 pounds. "I don't want people to see this tall skinny girl who is throwing Arnold around. You don't buy that."

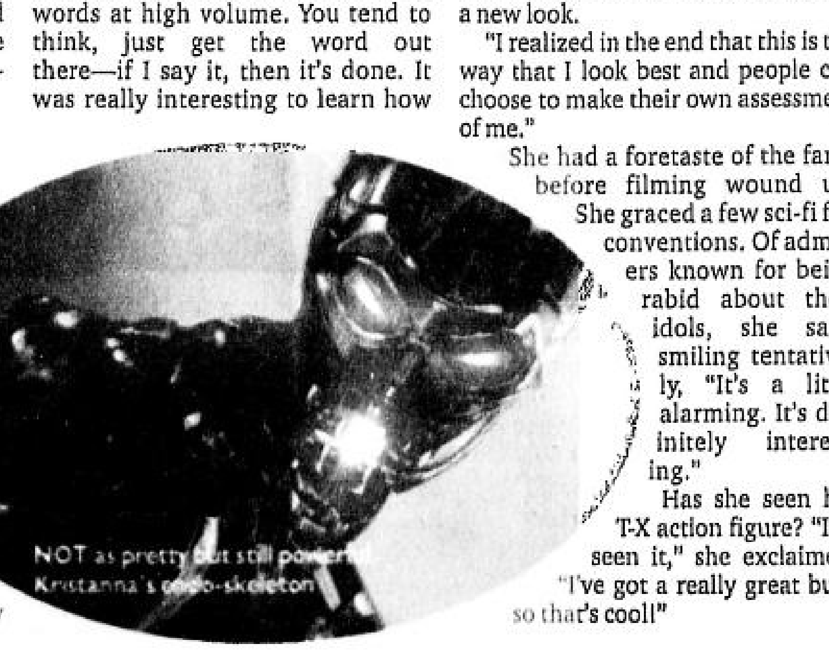
Luckily for her, the birthing scene was filmed last. By that time, she had shed those 15 pounds as a result of the rigorous action scenes.

Before landing this big role, Kristanna disclosed, she went through a period of cutting her hair and dyeing it in different colors, trying to achieve a new look.

"I realized in the end that this is the way that I look best and people can choose to make their own assessment of me."

She had a foretaste of the fame before filming wound up. She graced a few sci-fi fan conventions. Of admirers known for being rabid about their idols, she said, smiling tentatively, "It's a little alarming. It's definitely interesting."

Has she seen her T-X action figure? "I've seen it," she exclaimed. "I've got a really great butt, so that's cool!"


NOT as pretty but still powerful: Kristanna's endo-skeleton

That NovaLounge sound

...and the life cycle of a social barfly

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

SO FAR, these are the five craziest things I have done while hammered on alcohol:

1) Taking a shower with all my clothes on. But although I forgot to disrobe, I did not forget to apply conditioner on my hair.

2) Brushing my teeth with my mascara wand. I woke up one morning and freaked out when I saw that all my teeth had turned black.

3) Having a conversation at 4 a.m. with my Labrador retriever, Hugo, about the travails of a democratic republic. In Ilonggo. He was an excellent listener.

4) Walking the streets of Paris with three Jamaican guys who first approached me to ask for the time, and then decided to adopt me as their friend for the night. The following day, I couldn't find my passport.

5) Back in college at the Ateneo University, I attended Philippine History class and actually took down notes between visits to the toilet to puke out two pitchers of Tia Maria zombies. (That's what happens when you have four-hour breaks!)

Those days are long, long gone. It was still P25 to the dollar and I was still deeply involved with the three loves of my life—Johnny Walker, Jack Daniels and Jose Cuervo.

That was way back when I would shamelessly admit that during Happy Hour, I was the most ecstatic customer at the bar, unless Nick Joaquin was around. To this day, I still cringe when I think of all my bizarre antics in various stages of inebriation. But I don't mind re-telling those tales to my friends, now that I honestly think I've mellowed, slowed down the partying, and realized that alcohol is meant to be enjoyed, not abused.

Bar Culture is back

I believe this is the very spirit that has descended on many of Manila's twenty-to-thirtysomethings with the resurgence of the Bar Culture. In my humble opinion, Bar Culture is an after-hours lifestyle in which friends get together, have dinner and laughs, and then hang around in bars to enjoy the company some more, over a round of drinks. By this definition, alcohol is not the primary point of enjoyment; it is simply an accessory to the real pleasure, conversation with friends.

Bar Culture has been around for centuries. Today it is acknowledged as a lifestyle preference in many cosmopolitan cities around the world in its post-rave, post-chill out phase. Manila is experiencing this right now. Many cafés and restaurants around the city serve good food and coffee all day, then become Happy Hour temples from 5 to 7 p.m.

The lifestyle change was very subtle, like nice, ice-cold San Mig Light taken in sips, rather than 10 shots of tequila downed in 15 minutes. Maybe no one even noticed it happen—the rediscovery of this age-old pleasure of unwinding in a relaxed atmosphere, relishing good company and great music.

This sound called NovaLounge

Since music is an integral aspect of the Bar Culture scene, the listening experience has evolved as well. Notice that establishments are no longer playing hard and fist-pumping music? Neither are they playing tranquilizer-induced sounds. When one night I tried to come up with an apt description of the new music, the closest I got was steady-stylish-sound-somewhere-between-acceleration-and-near-cessation.

Think Gabin, Lustral, Gotan Project and Funky Lowlives. Compilations like Hotel Costes and Barrio Latino offer that same brand of ear chocolate—modern lounge mixes impossible to compartmentalize because they fuse various sounds from different eras, resulting in a classy concoction.

I am grateful to a good friend of mine for finally giving me the perfect catchphrase: NovaLounge. It's a groovy new beat that provides the right soundtrack to Manila's Bar Culture renaissance, a mix of Latin beats, new jazz rhythms, trip hop and Drum 'n Bass.

Its ardent promoters here in Manila, Big Ben Collective (BBC), likewise acknowledge that the music is all about a lifestyle change—one that is more laid-back, happier, and exuding good vibes, especially since you can still dance to it and not have to shout at the top of your lungs to talk to your buddies.

Permit me to shamelessly reveal a little "suite surprise": Hotel Costes' resident DJ, David de Barce, is flying in this month for a night that promises to be an absolutely groovy lounge party.

I welcome this happy lifestyle change. Perhaps it is a sign of my own transformation, acknowledging that life is better sipped pleasurably than gulped down. And though I occasionally still indulge in trysts with Johnny, Jack and Jose, I have met someone new, and it looks like it'll be me and him for a while. He is a darling of a saint named Miguel.

(Email the author at: inca_orange@yahoo.com)

DARNA in action

Designing Darna

VALENTINA's boytoys. (From left) Jay Espano, Mio Infante, Filomar Tariao

From page 14

MAGICIAN. Costume designer Ms Liz Fjelle Batoctoy

availability of materials," Liz explained. And what materials indeed! Fabric, latex foam, fiberglass, and steel wires are just some of the stuff she uses. We wouldn't be surprised if we saw a dancer wearing a kitchen sink onstage.

Liz uses locally available materials as often as possible. "Necessity is the mother of invention. You just keep on discovering new materials or techniques," she said. While she sometimes has to order her polyuretha-whats-its foams from abroad, she never has to worry for want of fabrics. "Divisoria is great! You see all sorts of fabrics you would never have imagined. It's also a lot, lot, lot, lot cheaper than other places."

Color palette

Liz ties it all together by assigning color motifs to specific characters. Darna (played by the beautiful and sultry BP dancers Christine Crame and Kris Belle Paclibar) is given striking red and gold, while her arch-enemy Valentina (played by Earth-saver Chin-chin Gutierrez and Dreamgirl Tex Ordoñez) is robed in maleficent purple and black. The *taong-bayan* are given earthy greens and browns, while Valentina's boy-toys get to parade around in gaudy fuchsia and lime green.

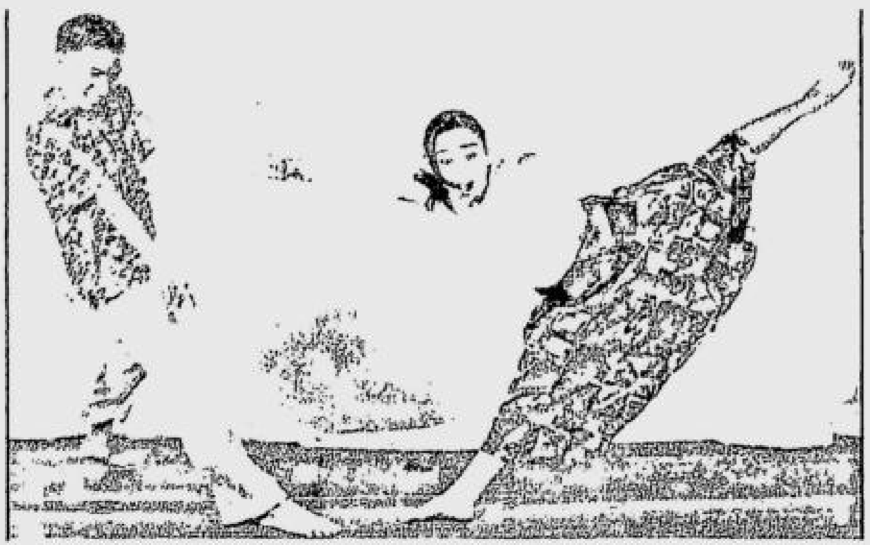
Once the final designs are rounded up, BP's costume staff goes to work. Production manager Ida Elopre is all praise for her core team: "*Manang* Terry, *Manang* Senyang and *Manang* Diding handle all the sewing requirements, and while our dependable technical director *Manong* Ago helps execute props and headdresses."

In rehearsals, the dancers will usually test the costumes for comfort, ease of movement, and durability. This particular production poses some challenges because the dancers will be flying. Other shows with flying sequences usually hide the equipment; BP's "Darna" will deliberately show the harnesses, cables, and pretty much the entire flying mechanisms. Just list a marionette show.

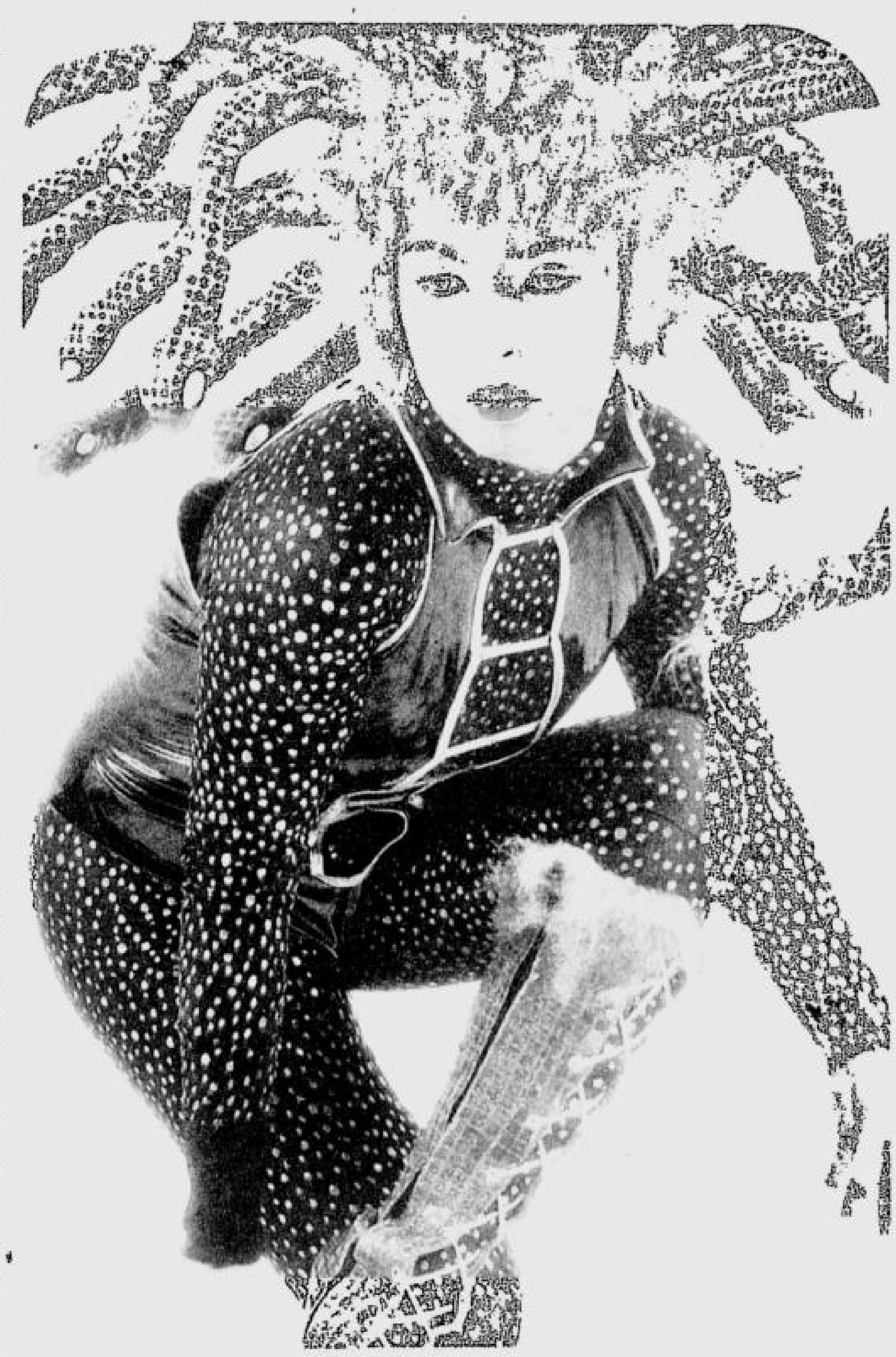
Thus, Liz has to incorporate the harnesses into the designs, as well as make sure the fabrics and construction of the costumes will withstand the show's highly physical milieu. From sketches on paper to fully realized ensembles, the costumes will surely take flight once "Darna" starts its run. Audiences will have another layer of the show to appreciate—seriously fun "eye candy."

Ballet Philippines' "Darna" opens Aug. 1 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Main Theater. Call 551-0144 and 551-1003 for details.

(Email the author at waltzang@mail.com)



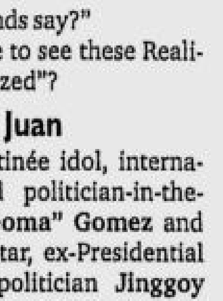
REWIND. Young Narda (Mica Bernas) plays with her brother Ding (Clark Rambuyon)



CHINCHIN Gutierrez sparkles as Valentina

Balut, Baba, Batok, atbp.

SWAK!



by Lex

THE PRODUCERS of "Fear Factor" had better thank their lucky stars that they're not in the Philippines, or they would have gone out of business a long time ago. My favorite episode so far is that one where they had four contestants eat "*balut*" as a final step to the $50,000 prize. "Yuuckkkk, oh my god, that's so freaking gross," they all screamed. And I'm watching at home thinking, "Yummy!"

"Reality TV" is the hottest thing abroad, but locally the trend hasn't caught on. In the United States, "Fear Factor," "Survivor," "The Amazing Race," "The Osbournes," and tons of other similar shows are all vying for No. 1 in the ratings.

Why hasn't this taken off locally? Aside from the fact that our propensity for eating all animal parts—fish eyes, chicken feet, *dinuguan*—makes us a force to reckon with in the international arena, I think we Filipinos are too "*pa*-shy."

I have attended my share of karaoke parties and I know that getting someone to start singing could be a momentous feat! The mic is passed from one unwilling victim to another, and treated as though it were a SARS-carrying, or leprosy-inducing, object. Meanwhile, everyone is singing along under their breath.

Finally, one brave soul grabs the mic and starts singing. This is when the power struggle begins. Suddenly, all the "shy" guys and gals can't seem to get enough of the limelight. Everyone is miraculously transformed from sorry-I-don't-know-how-to-sing-impersonators to **Martin Nievera** and **Regine Velasquez** wannabes.

Another reason that "Reality TV" is a long way from our shores is that we are not used to being confrontational on-cam. What makes these foreign shows interesting is that the situations induce un-scripted conflict. Pinoys would be too afraid to say something antagonistic while the whole world watched. They would be constantly thinking: "What would my mother/father/brother/sister/co-workers/friends say?"

Wouldn't you love to see these Reality TV shows "Filipinized"?

Fear Factor: San Juan

Concept: See matinée idol, international athlete, and politician-in-the-making **Richard "Goma" Gomez** and overweight action star, ex-Presidential son, and current politician **Jinggoy "Hari ng San Juan" Estrada** fight it out to see who is the genuine Man Without Fear.

Challenge Number One: "Head-butt Basketball," the national sport mixed with head and elbow strikes, refereed by Jawo.

Challenge Number Two: "*Batukan* contest": Who can receive the most slaps in the head and not get "*pikon*"?

Challenge Number Three: "Pride chicken-eating contest": Whoever consumes the most amount of pride chicken and gives up on the public pissing contest wins. Importance of this match-up: high, since they keep playing the skirmishes slow-mo on primetime TV. Option of last resort: Take legal action because, as Goma says, "*May pangalan ako, at sobra-sobra na ang ginagawang panghihiya sa pangalan ko, ha!*"

Survivor: Congress (Outwit, Outplay, Outlast)

Concept: Leave 20 politicians on a deserted island away from their mansions, mistresses, and money. Everyday, the audience votes someone off.

Method: Let the politicrocodiles lose and have them battle it out tooth and nail till only one stands above the carcasses of fallen peers.

Prize: Winner gets to keep his pork barrel.

Note: Parental Guidance Advised.

The Amazing Race: Pinoy Box office Queen Edition

Concept: Box-office queens race through TV and movie ratings.

Contestants: **Sharon, Kris, Vilma, Nora,** and **Ai Ai.** Requirements: Failed relationships, children and heaps of personal drama.

Ahead of the pack: **Ai Ai.**. Whoever said a chin that needs a license was an impediment to superstardom? She is living proof that perseverance, talent, and "being beauriful inside" can get you ... everywhere you want. You go, girl!

Calling major TV networks! Bring out the pig intestines, the microphones, the crocodiles, the superstar with the chin-to-win, and last but not the least, bring out the *balut*.

(For comments e-mail: swak_by_lex@yahoo.com)

Designing Darna

By Walter Ang
Contributor

"Ding, ang bato!" Kris-Belle Paclibar plays Darna.

If you were this ultra super-heroine Pinay, you'd have to look absolutely fantabulous

SAY you're a superheroine and you battle evil elements like robbers, gang members, snake-haired women and all sorts of nasty characters. It's probably great to have a magic stone that you swallow to activate your superpowers, but where in the world are you supposed to have your wardrobe done?

Your outfit should be able to endure the rigors of flying, hand-to-hand combat and other calisthenics involved in fighting crime. And of course, being the ultra super-heroine Pinay that you are, you'd have to look just abso-bloody-lutely fantabulous! Why just play when you can also display?

For Ballet Philippines' August production of "Darna," a multi-media show with dance, flying scenes, and music, the task of creating the right look for the characters fell into the able hands of Liz-Fjelle Batoctoy. Saturday Special Super! sought her out. . .with our noses. We knew we had found her when the distinct scent of rugby led us to this unusual house.

The quiet white façade belied the cornucopia of activity, colors and textures inside it. We were greeted by rows and rows of heads, translucent and opaque torsos, wide metal frames in all shapes, sketches of monsters, aliens and other fantastic beings. Oh yes, and bottles of rugby.

Liz and her husband Benny Batoctoy are well known in the movie and theater industries for their work in prosthetics. They have provided creatures for movies, like the recent "Spirit Warriors 2." In theater, the couple made waves with their colorful costumes and props for Trumpets' "Little Mermaid."

Among other productions, Liz designed the eerie and unsettling set for Tanghalang Pilipino's "Drakula" last year. With degrees in Fine Arts (Sculpture) and Stage Design from England, Liz came to settle in the Philippines in the early 1990s and has since added her signature to the local design scene.

Creative process

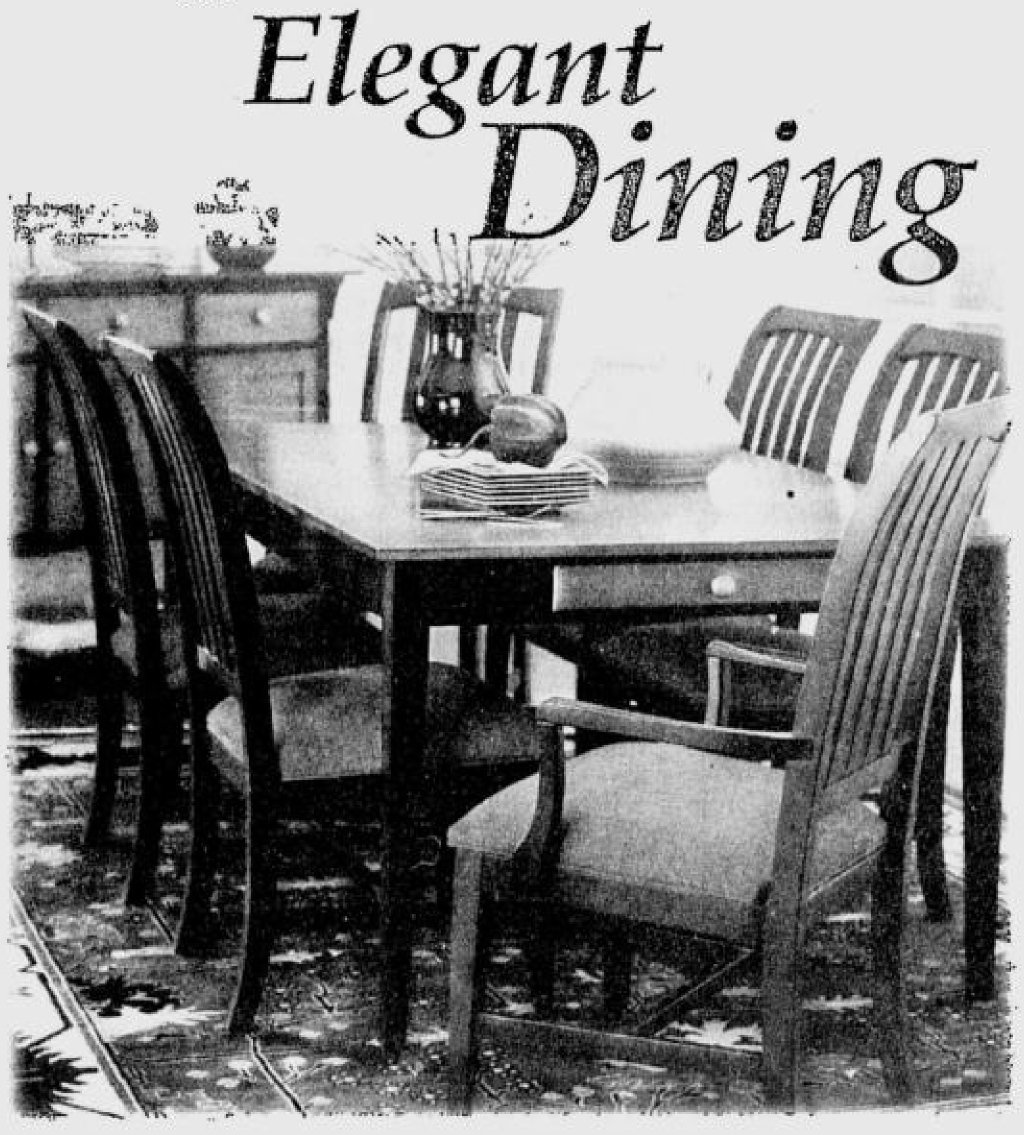
Liz has done a few Darnas before, including the movie version with Anjanette Abayari. This doesn't relax her standards. "I try something different each time," said the svelte, blonde designer. "I always believe it's going to be better each time."

Such is her dedication, that she "went around in circles just figuring out if I should include a *sando* in (the latest) Darna's outfit or not." You'd expect this kind of fervor from the same woman who said, "Wonder Woman's costume is so boring, isn't it?"

"The process always involves a lot of redesigns based on the time frame and the

DESIGNING/13

Stylish Living



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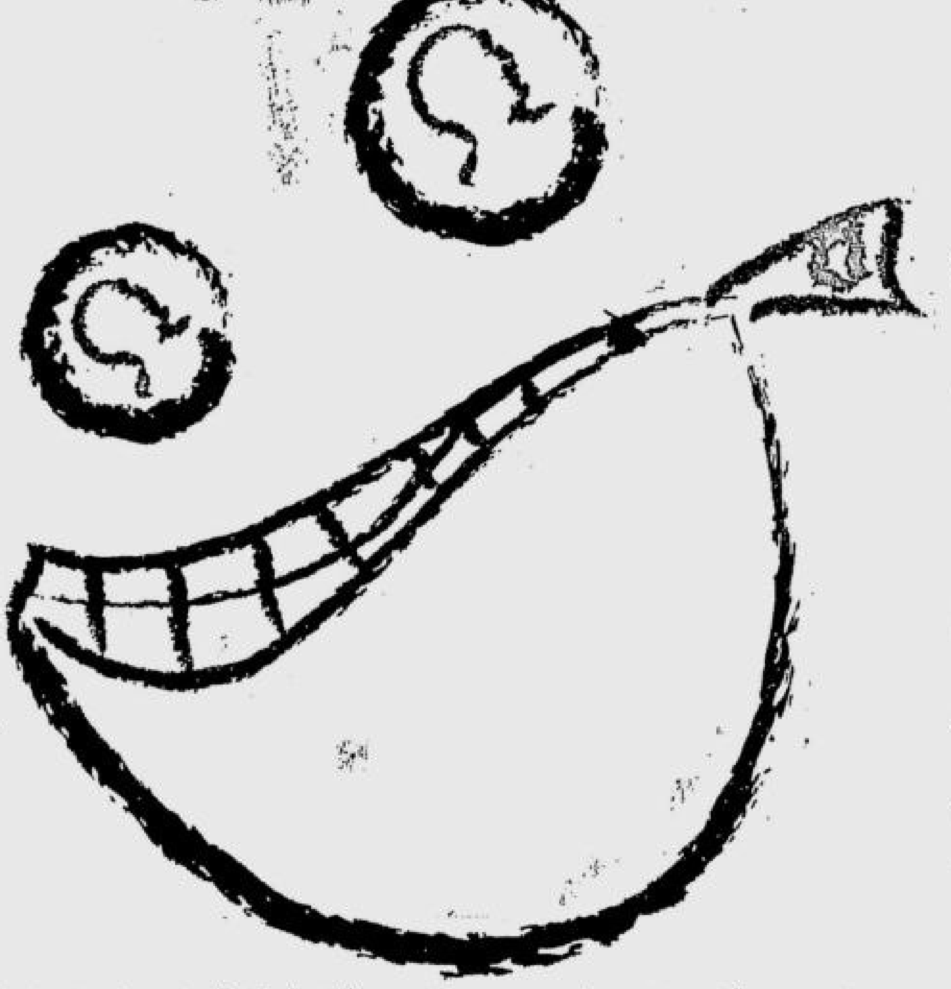

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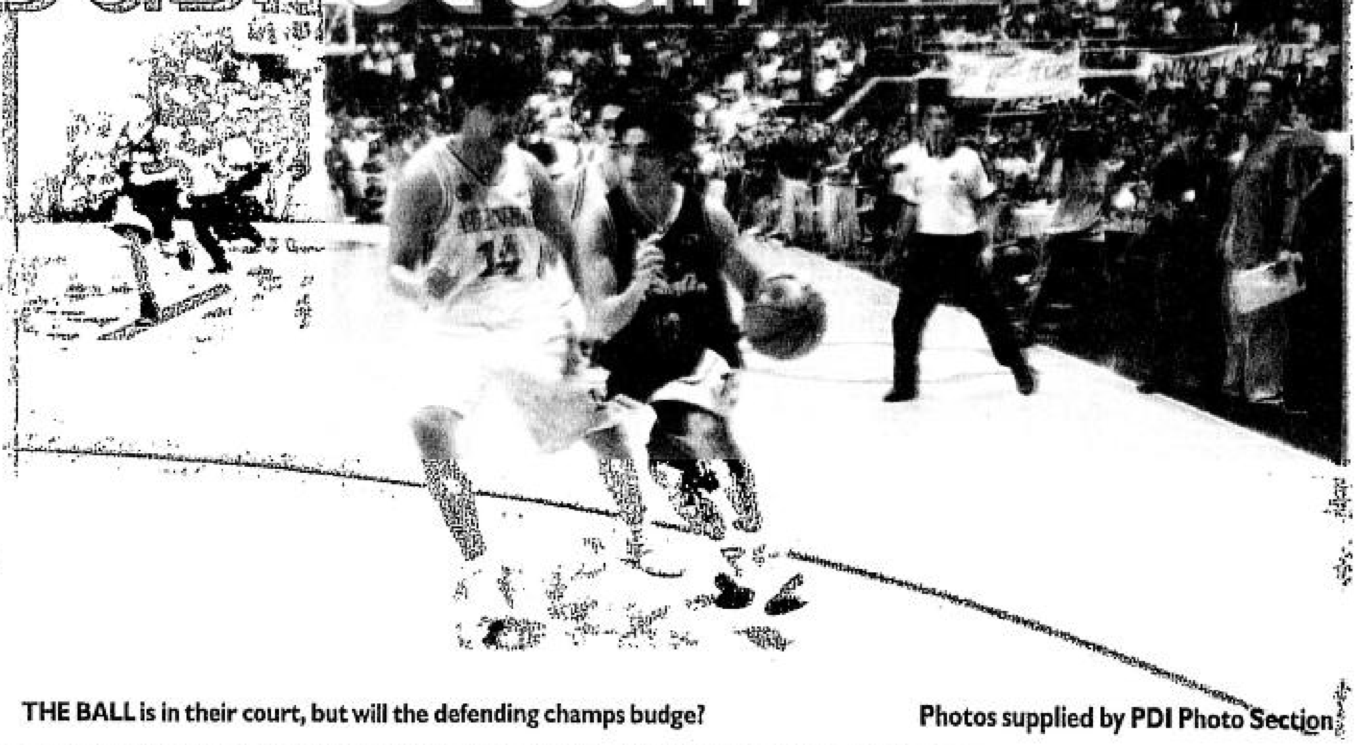
UAAP 2003 Basketball

Will the Blue Eagles hang on to the crown, or will the Green Archers exact sweet revenge? Or will one unheralded team spring the surprise of the millennium? One thing's for sure in UAAP basketball: It's anybody and everybody's game



THE BALL is in their court, but will the defending champs budge?

Photos supplied by PDI Photo Section

UAAP Men's Basketball Schedule

Jul 12, Sat 1:00 PM Opening Ceremonies Araneta Coliseum Live Studio 23
2:00 PM UP vs. NU srs Araneta Coliseum Live Studio 23
4:00 PM DLSU vs. UST srs Araneta Coliseum Live Studio 23

Jul 13, Sun 11:00 AM UP vs. NU jrs Araneta Coliseum
2:00 PM FEU vs. AdU srs Araneta Coliseum Live Studio 23
4:00 PM ADMU vs. UE srs Araneta Coliseum Live Studio 23
6:00 PM ADMU vs. UE jrs Araneta Coliseum

July 17, Thu 11:00 AM UST vs. NU jrs Araneta Coliseum
1:30 AM UST vs. NU srs Araneta Coliseum
4:00 PM ADMU vs FEU srs Araneta Coliseum Live Studio 23

July 19, Sat 11:00 AM UE vs. AdU jrs Blue Eagle Gym
2:00PM UE vs AdU srs Blue Eagle Gym Live Studio 23
4:00 PM DLSU vs. UP srs Blue Eagle Gym Live Studio 23
6:00 PM DLSZ vs. UP jrs Blue Eagle Gym

July 20, Sun 2:00 PM FEU vs NU srs Blue Eagle Gym Live Studio 23
4:00 PM ADMU vs. UST srs Blue Eagle Gym Live Studio 23
6:00 PM ADMU vs. UST jrs Blue Eagle Gym

July 24, Thu 11:00 AM UP vs. AdU jrs Araneta Coliseum
2:00 PM UP vs. AdU srs Araneta Coliseum
4:00 PM DLSU vs. UE srs Araneta Coliseum Live Studio 23
6:00 PM DLSZ vs. UE jrs Araneta Coliseum

July 26, Sat 11:00 AM UE vs. UP jrs Blue Eagle Gym
2:00 PM UE vs. UP srs Blue Eagle Gym Live Studio 23
4:00 PM DLSU vs. AdU srs Blue Eagle Gym Live Studio 23
6:00 PM DLSZ vs. AdU jrs Blue Eagle Gym

July 27, Sun 11:00 AM ADMU vs. NU jrs Blue Eagle Gym
2:00 PM ADMU vs. NU srs Blue Eagle Gym Live Studio 23
4:00 PM UST vs. FEU srs Blue Eagle Gym Live Studio 23

July 31, Thurs 11:00 AM ADMU vs. AdU jrs Araneta Coliseum
1:30 PM ADMU vs. AdU srs Araneta Coliseum
4:00 PM UST vs. UP srs Araneta Coliseum Live Studio 23
6:00 PM UST vs. UP jrs Araneta Coliseum

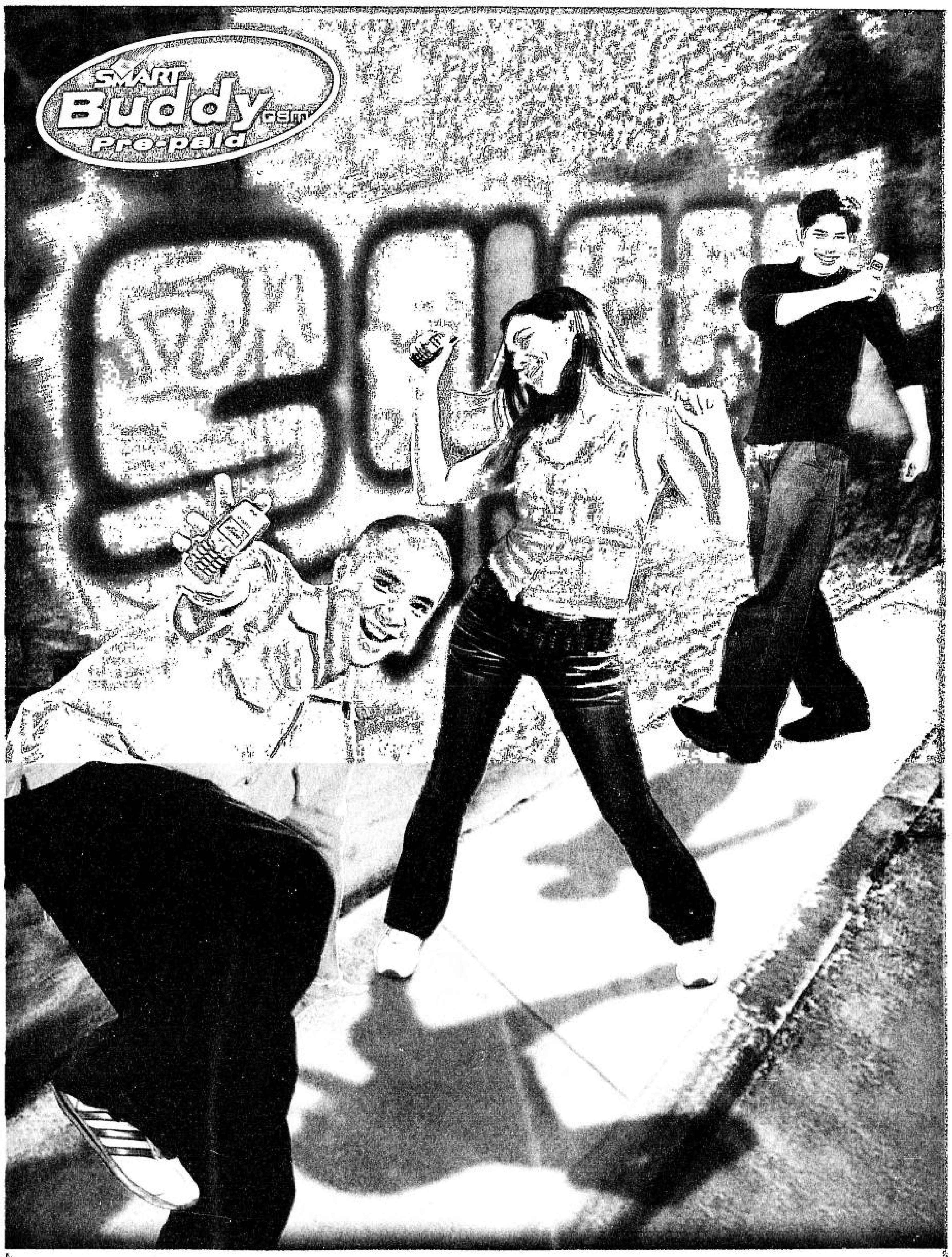
Aug 2, Sat 11:00 AM DLSZ vs. NU jrs Blue Eagle Gym
2:00 PM DLSU vs. NU srs Blue Eagle Gym Live Studio 23
4:00 PM UE vs. FEU srs Blue Eagle Gym Live Studio 23

Aug 3, Sun 11:00 AM UST vs. AdU jrs Blue Eagle Gym
2:00 PM UST vs. AdU srs Blue Eagle Gym Live Studio 23
4:00 PM ADMU vs. UP srs Blue Eagle Gym Live Studio 23
6:00 PM ADMU vs. UP jrs Blue Eagle Gym

Aug 7, Thu 11:00 AM UE vs. NU jrs Araneta Coliseum
1:30 PM UE vs. NU srs Araneta Coliseum
4:00 PM DLSU vs. FEU srs Araneta Coliseum

Aug 9, Sat 11:00 AM AdU vs. NU jrs Araneta Coliseum
2:00 PM AdU vs. NU srs Araneta Coliseum Live Studio 23
4:00 PM ADMU vs. DLSU srs Araneta Coliseum Live Studio 23
6:00 PM ADMU vs. DLSZ jrs Araneta Coliseum

Aug 10, Sun 2:00 PM FEU vs. UP srs Blue Eagle Gym Live Studio 23
4:00 PM UE vs. UST srs Blue Eagle Gym Live Studio 23
6:00 PM UE vs. UST jrs Blue Eagle Gym



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Winning streaks in the UAAP

OF THE three universities that started the UAAP, only the University of Sto. Tomas achieved major success, specifically in the sport of basketball.

University of the East, which became an official member in 1954, won more titles than any other team.

The Red Warriors, under under, legendary coach Virgilio "Baby" Dalupan, won a total of 18 UAAP basketball crowns as it reigned in the 1960s after capturing seven straight UAAP championships.

That streak was halted by Far Eastern University in the 1972-73 season.

UE's last UAAP crown came in the 1985 season, a follow up to its 1984 title where former Olympian Jimmy Mariano did the trick. UE's stars in that squad includes current Ginebra mentor Allan Caidic and Mobiline slotman Jerry Codiñera.

On the other hand, Sto. Tomas is close to UE's feat with 17 UAAP cage titles.

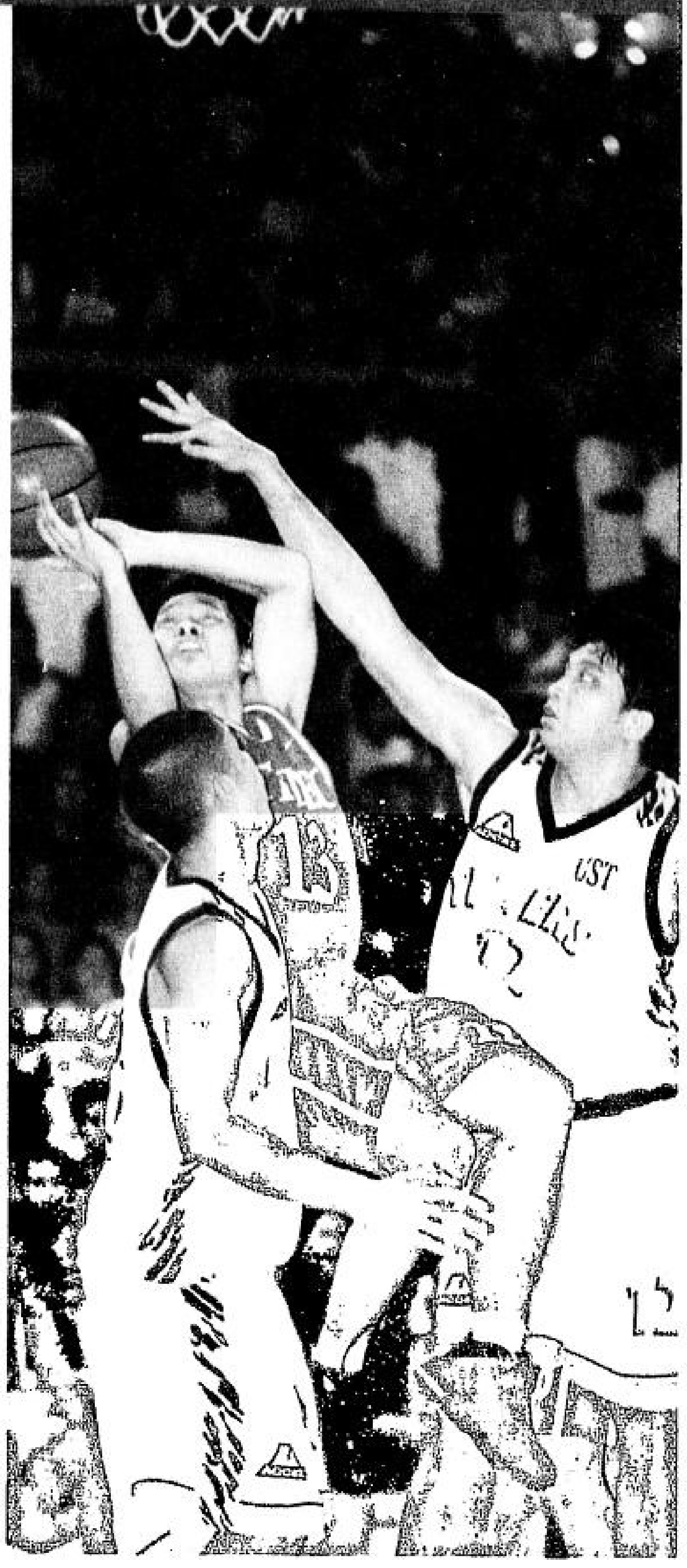
The Growling Tigers ruled in the 1990s, winning four consecutive UAAP championships from 1993 to 1996 behind coach Januario "Aric" del Rosario.

The last of only three dominant UAAP squads was Far Eastern University, which has a total of 15 basketball crowns.

The Tamaraws were the first UAAP basketball champions when the league reeled off its first season in 1938-1939.

YEAR	CHAMPION
1938 - 1939	FEU
1939 - 1940	UP, UST, FEU
1940 - 1941	UST
1946 - 1947	UST
1947 - 1948	FEU, UST
1948 - 1949	UST
1949 - 1950	UST
1950 - 1951	FEU
1951 - 1952	UST
1952 - 1953	UST
1053 - 1954	UST
1954 - 1955	NU
1955 - 1956	UST
1956 - 1957	FEU
1957 - 1958	UST
1958 - 1959	UST
1959 - 1960	UST
1960 - 1961	UST
1961 - 1962	UST
1962 - 1963	UST
1963 - 1964	UST
1964 - 1965	UST
1965 - 1966	UST
1966 - 1967	UST
1967 - 1968	UST
1968 - 1969	FEU
1969 - 1970	UE
1970 - 1971	UST
1971 - 1972	UE
1972 - 1973	UE
1973 - 1974	FEU
1974 - 1975	UE
1975 - 1976	UE
1976 - 1977	FEU
1977 - 1978	AdU
1978 - 1979	UE
1979 - 1980	FEU
1980 - 1981	FEU
1981 - 1982	FEU
1982 - 1983	UE
1983 - 1984	FEU
1984 - 1985	UE
1985 - 1986	UE
1986 - 1987	UP
1987 - 1988	ADMU
1988 - 1989	ADMU
1989 - 1990	DLSU
1990 - 1991	DLSU
1991 - 1992	FEU
1992 - 1993	FEU
1993 - 1994	UST
1994 - 1995	UST
1995 - 1996	UST
1996 - 1997	UST
1997 - 1998	FEU
1998 - 1999	DLSU
1999 - 2000	DLSU

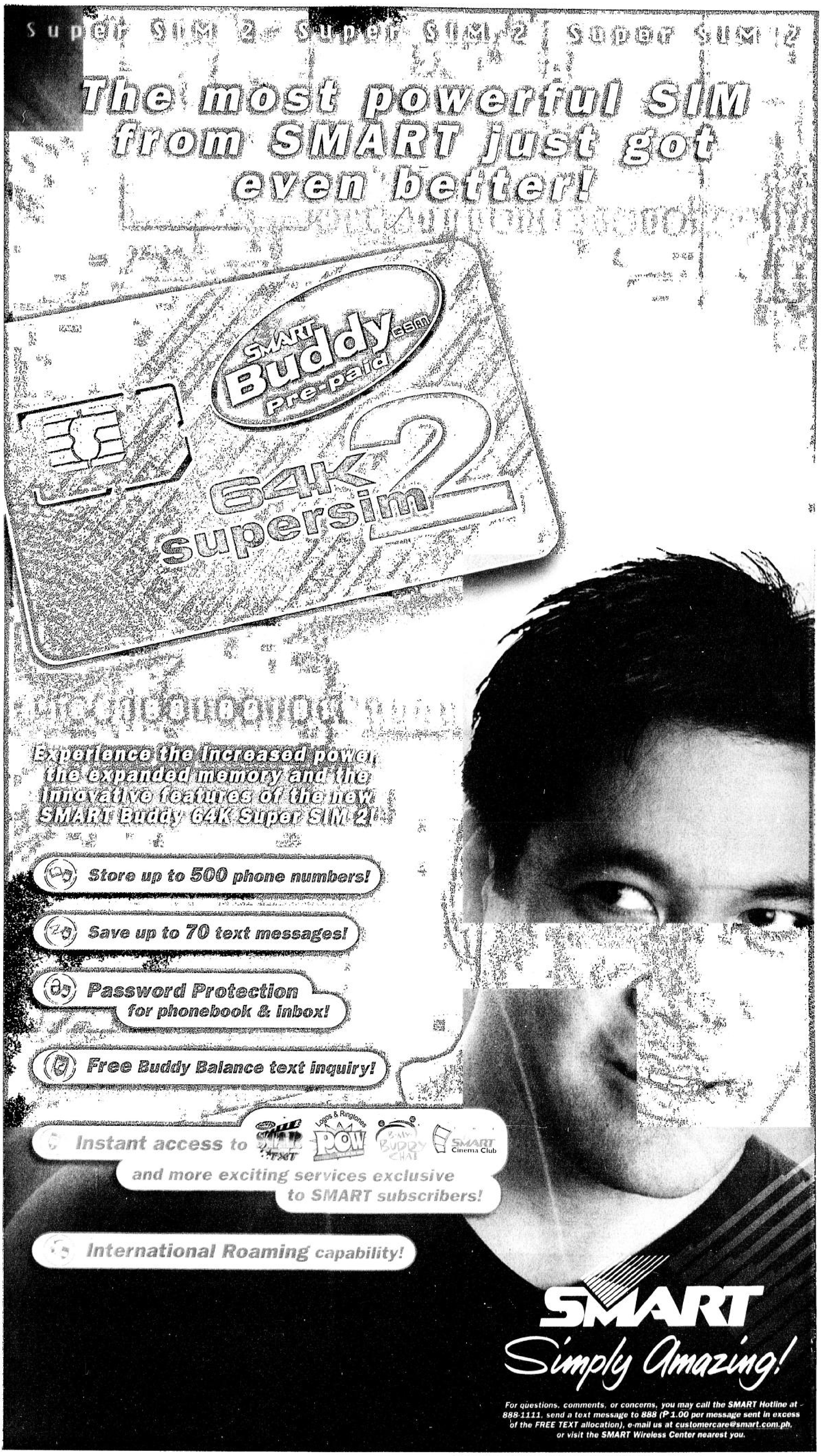
(From www.pinoy-central.com's UAAP Online)



UAAP participating schools

- Ateneo Blue Eagles
- De La Salle Green Archers
- NU Bulldogs
- UP Maroons
- Adamson Falcons
- FEU Tamaraws
- UE Red Warriors
- UST Growling Tigers

take hurts real
adidas



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College Basketball's Best are Back in Town!

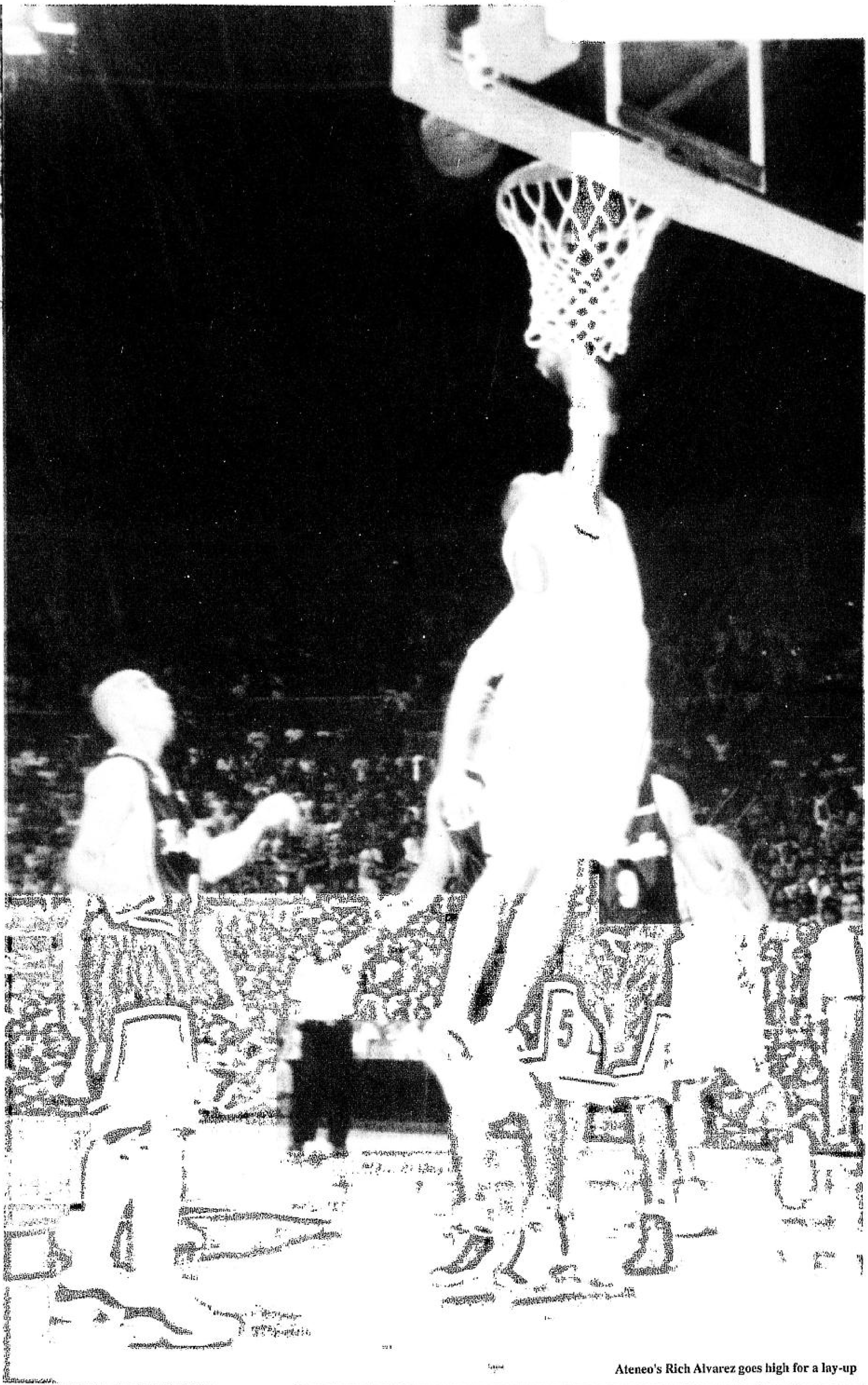
Players jockey for position under the basket

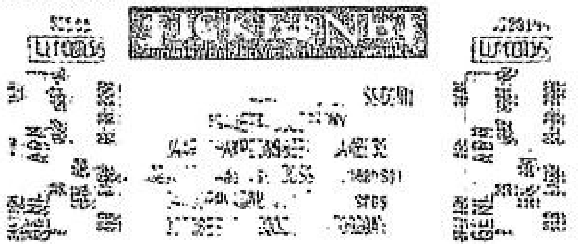
Last year, eagles flew higher than all the others. In the 65th season of the University Athletics Association of the Philippines (UAAP) Basketball Tournament, the Ateneo Blue Eagles were kings once more of the collegiate basketball hill, after besting their archrivals, the De La Salle Green Archers. The Eagles came back from a 4-5 win-loss card during the second round to sneak by University of the East and enter the Finals. There, they challenged the four-time defending champion Archers. And after a finals series that captured the hearts of the nation, Ateneo stood tall and proud.

Well, it's that time of year again. When the booming of drums and the cheers of a crowd ring throughout an arena. The UAAP is back, and SMART is right there to bring the games to you! You can SIM Swap to the SMART Buddy 64K Super SIM 2 for absolutely free, and begin to enjoy the power of the latest technological marvel from SMART. From opening day this July 12th at the historic Araneta Coliseum and every successive game thereafter, you can wield the power of SMART in your hands. Get ready to experience the power of storing up to 500 phone numbers and up to 70 messages with instant access to SMART services exclusive to SMART Buddy subscribers like STARTXT, Logos & Ringtones, Pick of the Week, SMART Cinema Club, and more. You can also win an exclusive premium item if you SIM Swap to the SMART Buddy 64K Super SIM 2 during the UAAP games!

There are lots of questions surrounding this season that are just dying to be answered. Can defending champions Ateneo repeat last year's momentous triumph, despite losing a bunch of their seniors to graduation? Can La Salle, without Mike Cortez and star shooter BJ Manalo re-enter the Finals? Has UE gotten over the trauma of Gec Chia's game winner and finally return to glory? With the influx of new recruits from their junior ranks, can UP return to the Final Four? Despite losing Cyrus Baguio and Nino Gelig, can UST return to their old winning form? Is Adamson ready to compete with the big boys now that they have prized recruit Ken Bono? Will the experience of playing in the Philippine Basketball League (PBL) translate into a crown for FEU? Can NU prove that their Final Four appearance two years ago wasn't a fluke?

The unmatched excitement and the endless thrills of college basketball are nowhere more evident than in the UAAP. School pride is at stake, and people proudly wear their alma mater's colors to the games. With the adrenaline rush that only the country's finest collegiate players can provide, SMART is right in the middle of the action. So SIM Swap now to the SMART Buddy 64K Super SIM 2 and give in to that basketball fever!


Ateneo's Rich Alvarez goes high for a lay-up


The hot ticket last year?
Game 3 of the Ateneo-La Salle Finals

Cheerleaders like the DLSU Pep Squad bring lots of color to the games

The Blue Eagles celebrate after last year's UAAP Championship

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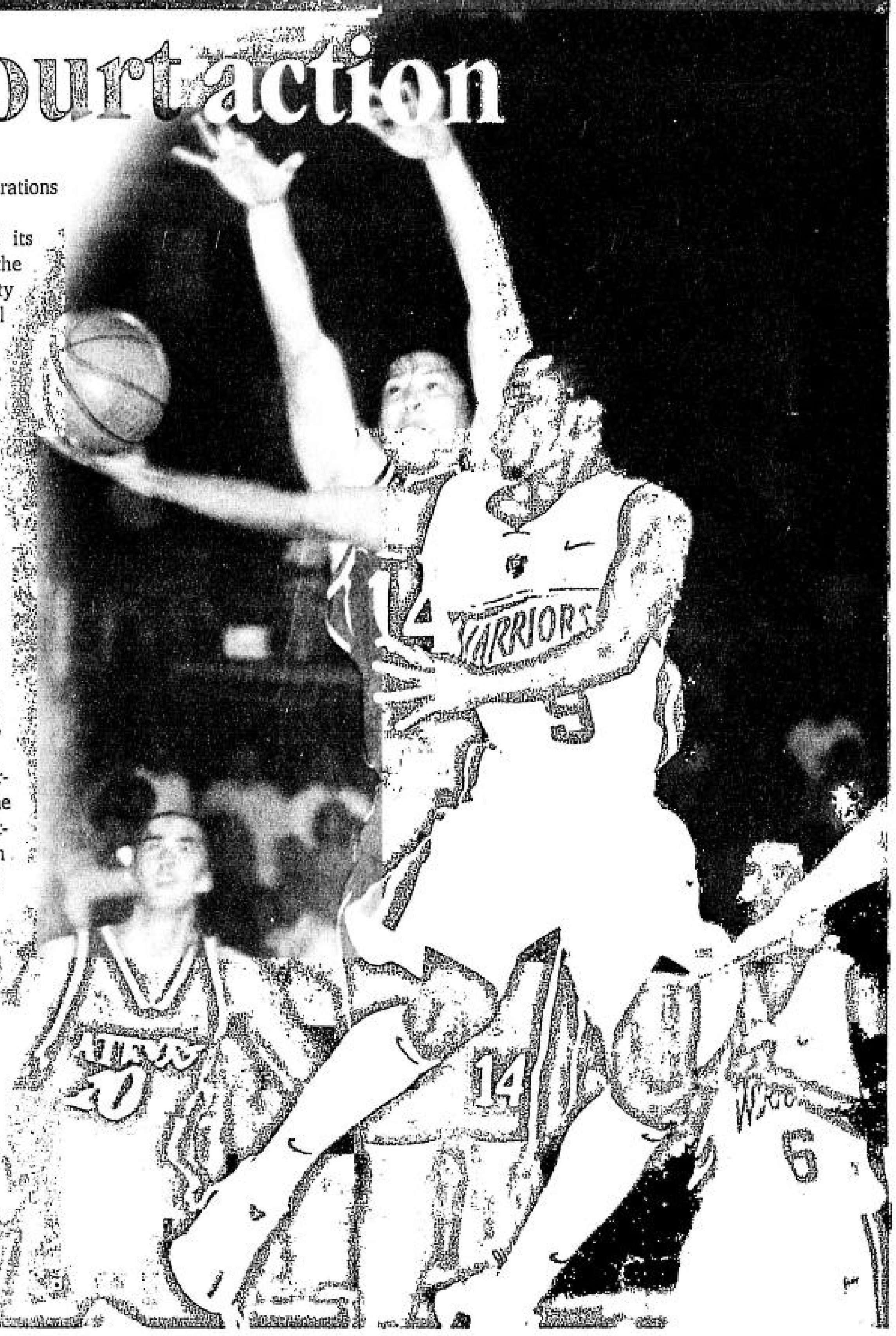

IN 1924, Dr. Regino Ylanan, director of the University of the Philippines' physical education, invited several institutions to participate in an athletic association.

University of Santo Tomas (UST), National University (NU), De La Salle College and the Institute of Accounts (forerunner of the Far Eastern University) accepted Ylanan's invitation.

A week after the initial meeting, the group drafted and approved the constitution and by-laws of the organization to form what became the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

In 1930, the NCAA board of directors filed papers of incorporation with the then Bureau of Commerce. Before the start of the 1930 season, however, UP, UST and NU sought permission from the NCAA to form a triangular meet.

"The Big Three" then experimented by imposing the home and home format, which proved to be a success. On April 6, 1932, the article of agreement was renewed.

The Big Three then decided to pull away from the NCAA where it continued to operate for the next six years. Into its seventh year, the UP's board of directors of the alumni association suggested to then UP president Jorge Bocobo that a new inter-university association be formed.

UP, UST, NU and FEU representatives met at the Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation (PAAF) office. On Sept. 27, 1938, the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) was established.

Events included in the UAAP games were basketball, women's volleyball, baseball, football, swimming and track and field.

UP representative professor Candido Bartolome then suggested that each member university be given the chance to be trained in the conduct and management of the league. Thus, in the drawing of lots, UST was the first to host, followed by FEU and NU.

In 1941, the league halted operations due to the onset of World War 2.

In 1952, the UAAP opened its doors to other universities with the University of the East, University of Manila and Manila Central University granted probationary status. Among them, only UE got permanent membership after playing for three seasons in the UAAP.

From 1965 to 1971, UE asserted its dominance by collaring seven consecutive titles.

In 1970, Adamson reapplied for membership with a two-year probationary period. Four years later, Adamson gained full membership after successfully hosting the UAAP.

In 1978, Ateneo de Manila joined the UAAP. Eight years later, La Salle followed suit.

In 1981, FEU (coached by Arturo Valenzona), registered the league's first-ever sweep in basketball en route to the crown. In 1993, UST duplicated the feat, winning 14 straight.

In 1994, taekwondo was introduced in the league's sports calendar. In 1995, judo, badminton and women's football were added as UAAP events. In 1996, UST completed a "four-peat," the most since UE's seven straight.

In 1997, UP ended UST's 14-year reign of the UAAP general championship. UST's 14 consecutive general championships were the most for any member school in UAAP history. (*Sourced from www.pinoycentral.com's UAAP Online)*

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